

Being with Jesus:

A Devotional From the Book of Mark

Scripture

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” — Matthew 25: 34-40

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.”
— Proverbs 19:17

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for caring about those who are down and out. Thank You for being willing to associate Yourself with them. Help me to treat “the least of these” in my world like I would treat You. Amen.

Reflection

Often in life there are people we want to be around and others we would rather avoid. If someone can help us or brings us up in some way, we want to be near them. If someone is a drain on our energy, or needs something from us, we may want to shy away. In the scripture above, Jesus us gives us a good reason to reach out to people who we might ordinarily want to avoid.

At the end of time, God will gather everyone up. Jesus says, “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” The people ask, “When did we do this?” Jesus answers that it’s whenever you helped the least of his brothers and sisters. Jesus is willing to associate Himself with people of the lowest social standing and power bracket. When we help people like this, Jesus says that it’s like helping Him.

This should motivate us to find “the least of these” and help them like they we were helping Jesus! If you look around, who are the “least of these” in your community? It could be older men and women in a nursing home. Maybe it’s poor or homeless people. Perhaps it’s an unpopular classmate or a special needs student. When we help people at the bottom, Jesus counts it as helping Him. That is an inspiring thing!

Questions

Who are “the least of these” in your world?

What can you do to help?

How does seeing the lowly around you as Jesus change your view of them?