

ACTS OF SERVICE

A Guiding Word

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SHARE



Share about the kinds of service activities you have been involved in? Was this something you enjoyed or was it hard work?

Are there any new or existing possibilities of service that you see in your community?

READ



Matthew 25:37-40

Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the Kind will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

TALK



Culturally things become obsolete and 'boring' so quickly. The most alluring and profitable companies only seek the most innovative and creative people who can dream big and do things no-one else could conceive of. The pressure is constant and the high expectations are constantly weighing on people.

What happens when we import these values into the church? Is being a Christian like living in a cultural pressure cooker? Not according to Matthew 25.

The Christians (called the righteous) in the passage had received the gift of faith in a way which had transformed their lives forever. That's why they were surprised to hear Jesus commending them for ordinary acts of service like feeding the hungry, offering hospitality and visiting the sick

and those in prison. It means they never did those things so they could share a story or so people would notice them. As Luther says, their faith was just busy and active and before they could think about their motivations for serving, they'd already done it!

Only the gospel can open your eyes to the needs of others. Without it, you'll serve only yourself. Likewise only the gospel will open your heart to people considered the least or insignificant in the community. Without it you'll only move within your comfort zone. God has a far greater purpose for every generation than that!

Jesus sees the least and insignificant people of this world (who are present in every community) as of great importance. Hold on because He will do things you've never imagined as the generations serve in His name!

- What does your life look like? Do you have time for others?
- In your community how can you 'feed the hungry, offer hospitality and visit the sick'?
- How can older congregation members mentor others in acts of service?

PRAY



Pray for each other, your congregation and the world.

BLESS



Bless each other with these words: (Name), child of God, every promise of God is fulfilled in you through Jesus Christ. Amen.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE

#9

Children and young people are encouraged to participate in acts of service in the name of Jesus Christ.

FAITH 5



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