

Missional Serving Community - Unit 1 -

Week 1: *PRAY* see learn serve

Lord,
make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.

Amen

- St Francis

Scripture guided prayers

- Hear/Read the scripture
- What does the scripture tell me/us about how we are to respond to those in need?
- How does this scripture inform how you/we pray and what you/we pray for?

Proverbs 29:7

“The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.”

Leviticus 19:9-10

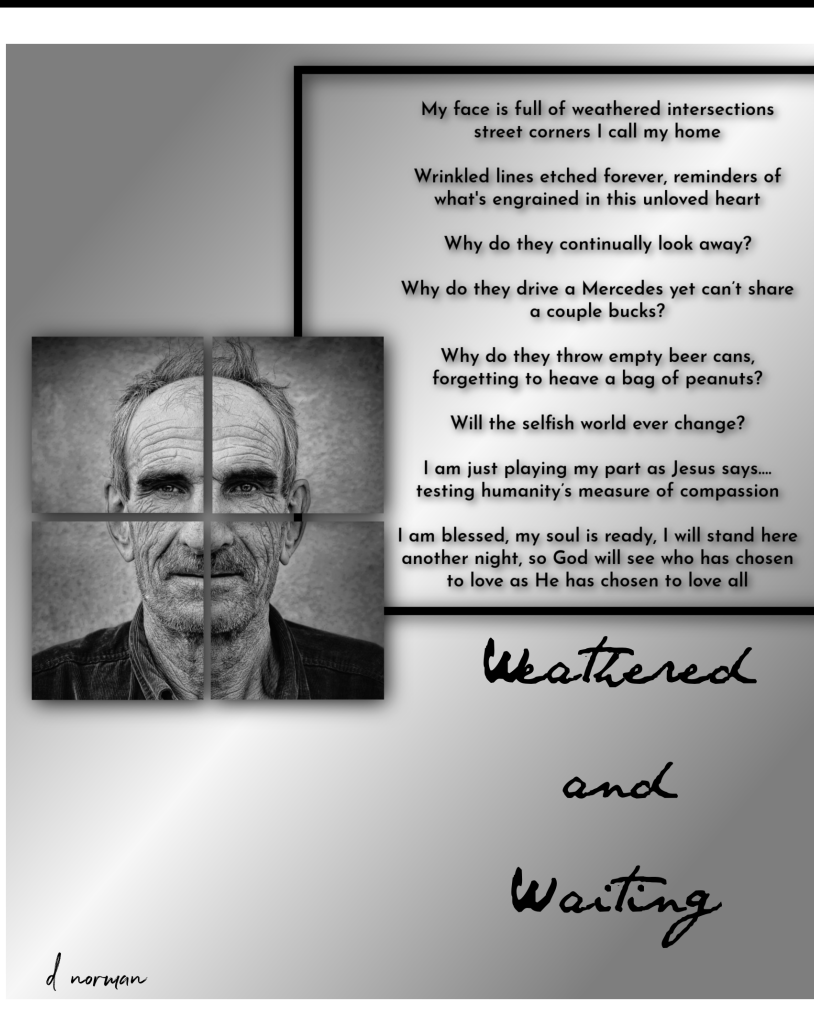
“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.”

Proverbs 21:13

“Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered.”

Matthew 25:40

“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.’”



My face is full of weathered intersections
street corners I call my home

Wrinkled lines etched forever, reminders of
what's engrained in this unloved heart

Why do they continually look away?

Why do they drive a Mercedes yet can't share
a couple bucks?

Why do they throw empty beer cans,
forgetting to heave a bag of peanuts?

Will the selfish world ever change?

I am just playing my part as Jesus says...
testing humanity's measure of compassion

I am blessed, my soul is ready, I will stand here
another night, so God will see who has chosen
to love as He has chosen to love all

*Weathered
and
Waiting*

d norman

As you reflect on the scripture guided prayers, the images the group looked at, and the poem, what are 2-3 things you are feeling called to pray for/about?

The Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

³⁶ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

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Week 2: pray *SEE* learn serve

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Something had damaged the priest's and Levite's ability to see this person as a human being. What was it?

Was it an elevated sense of call or personal importance?

Was it lifelong patterns of busyness and fulfilling an overly full schedule?

Was it their understanding of what faithfulness required of them?

Was it opinions, fears, and biases that had been ingrained into them through their upbringing? Had they heard and told stories, even jokes, about the Jericho road and the kinds of people who got in trouble there?

Let's make this a bit more personal. What about us? What has damaged our ability to see the humanity, dignity, and image of God in other people? What are the variables that blind us from seeing people whose lives are different or broken? What inhibits us from seeing the pain of those closest to us?

Is it our own sense of personal importance? Do we live by an unspoken cultural caste system that helps us identify who does and doesn't deserve our time, touch, and attention?

How does the frenetic pace of our lives and our calendars blind us to what is beautiful and broken around us?

What opinions, fears, and biases have been ingrained in us through our upbringing, the brand of church we've been a part of, and our preferred media sources?

We, like the violent few and religious elite of Jesus' story, have been trained to see and to not see certain people. The people we are most concerned about tend to be a homogeneous, insulated few. We're very clear who the "us" and the "them" are, and we are careful to keep the distinction defined and the distance severe.

To help with this, we tell each other stories in which we play the heroes and "others" are the villains. We speak of our "others" not as different but as wrong, dangerous, violent, and to be feared. We trust only those who think, believe, sound, and act like us and grow progressively suspicious of accents, skin tones, economic disparities, sexual orientations, political affiliations, and names of God that are different from ours. We manage our fear not by seeing them, building friendships, or allowing them to teach us about who they are but by not seeing them at all."

John 5:17, 19-20

17 ...Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working...19 Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

John 5:17,19-20 Outline from "Experiencing God" by Blackaby & King

- I. The Father has been working right up until now.
- II. Now the Father has Me working.
- III. I do nothing on My own initiative.
- IV. I watch to see what the Father is doing.
- V. I do what I see the Father already is doing.
- VI. You see, the Father loves Me.
- VII. He shows Me everything that He, Himself, is doing.

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Week 3: pray see *LEARN* serve

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**“Experiencing God - Chapter 6:
God is at Work Around You”
Summary**

God is always at work in His world. He is working to bring about world redemption through His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus described the way He knew and did the will of His Father. Because the Father loved His Son, He showed the Son what He was doing. Jesus watched to see where the Father was working and joined Him. You can follow that same pattern by watching to see where God is at work. When He shows you, join Him in His work. Focus your attention on God's call to an assignment rather than your spiritual gifts, personal desires, personal skills, abilities, or resources. Once you understand God's call to an assignment, obey Him and He will work through you to accomplish His purposes.

**“Experiencing God - Chapter 6:
God is at Work Around You”
Prayer**

God, I know You are always at work around me. Thank You that You are redeeming this lost world through Jesus. I want to be a participant in that work. Thank You that you have chosen to work through ordinary people like me. I am ready to work. Let me see where You are working. I seek Your invitation to join You in Your work. I wait for You to take the initiative. I want to work with You because I love You and I want to continue in this wonderful love relationship You have started with me. Make me attentive to Your Holy Spirit. Show me Your assignment for me. I am reporting for duty when You are ready. I know You will work through me to accomplish Your perfect will.
Amen