



Pastor Shawn Life with the Lonely, Vulnerable, & Oppressed Nov 17, 2024

God measures our love FOR HIM by our love FOR OTHERS

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35

"'Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.' The crowds asked, 'What should we do?' John replied, 'If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.'" Luke 3:10-11

"'Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?' The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'" Luke 10:36-37

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world... Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, 'Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well'— but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So, you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless." James 1:27, 2:15-17

God's heart is for the lonely, vulnerable, and oppressed

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling." Psalm 69:5

"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalm 34:18

"He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing." Deuteronomy 10:18

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." Isaiah 1:17

God holds us accountable to how we treat lonely, vulnerable and oppressed people

"'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 'And the King 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!'" Matthew 25:37-40

"When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required." Luke 12:48

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice." Proverbs 31:8-9

His Church should align with His heart

"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So, we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God." 1 John 3:16-19

"The believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity." Acts 2:44-16

Do for one what you wish you could do for many