

Peace & Patience / Kindness & Goodness Fruit of the Spirit Part 2 & 3

07.17.22 | Pastor Jordan Biel

HOOK: The peace you desire in life can only come through Christ.

// Introduction - Story

When we talk about “the fruit of the Spirit” we’re talking about the characteristics that God wants to develop in our life.

The Fruit of the Spirit are the characteristics of Jesus; they are the things that God wants to develop in your life as He shapes your character. It’s part of the sanctification process - becoming like Jesus.

One thing you’ll hear me say often is that God’s goal for our life is that glorify Him and that we become like His Son, Jesus. That’s straight from the Bible.

Turn to Ephesians 4 with me
Ephesians 4:18-32

18 (speaking of people without Christ) They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned 21 when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. 25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. 26 “In your

anger do not sin” Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 and do not give the devil a foothold. 28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. (That is a simple list of the OPPOSITE of the FRUIT of the SPIRIT) 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Being kind and forgiving is inextricably linked to the fruit of the Spirit. When we say “Kindness and goodness” We’re talking about the kindness of GOD - again it’s the fruit of the SPIRIT - it’s GOD’s fruit - GOD’s attribute - GOD’s characteristic to be kind - meaning - to give to others what they don’t deserve.

Forgiveness is giving people what they don’t deserve. It’s giving them mercy. It’s giving them a second chance. It’s assuming the best of them - it’s showing ... KINDNESS.

We’ll talk more about kindness in a little bit but let me give you one more foundational scripture for today.

Colossians 2:9-15

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ,

12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood

against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.
15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

A few things about peace

// Peace is a choice

At the risk of sounding brash, I want you to know that peace is often a choice. **Whether we have peace or not in any situation is a conditional upon two things 1. What we're focused on and 2. Where our trust is**

For those of you who have repented of your sin and received Jesus as Lord and Savior, you have become ONE with Christ. You can put your focus ON HIM - on your Savior! The Bible says that when Jesus died, you died. When He became victorious over sin and the result of sin-death, YOU and I became victorious over sin and death. THIS is the GOSPEL. Jesus did what you could not do! Are you thankful for that!?!?!

But because we're still on earth and not yet in Heaven, we have to put OFF the old way of living and let the seed of the Spirit take root so we can bear the fruit - yes I made it rhyme =)

Let the seed of the Spirit take root so you can bear the fruit!

But what are the things that cause us to take our eyes off of Jesus? What are the reasons why we stop bearing the fruit of the spirit like peace and patience, kindness and goodness?

- **THE NEWS**

- *Each and every day, we can turn on the screen and see the talking heads trying to outdo each other and trying to dig deep into their own opinions and beliefs of where we are as a world and why we have gotten to the place that we are.*
- *NO question - we are living in some pretty crazy times...*

- **Historically, peace in the broad sense is known as the basic absence of conflict or war.**
 - *the absence... and in that absence, there was peace.*
 - *Forgetting JESUS is in control. My dad did a great job preaching last week about the End Times we're living in and the return of Christ. If you weren't here last week, please be sure to listen to that podcast! He taught about Jesus coming back to earth to take to Heaven a people dedicated to Him. Remembering THIS will give you PEACE. It will help you zoom out from the stress the world is in - the fear - the worry - the turmoil unbelievers are in.*
- **But peace is so much more as we look at the Word of God...**
 - *SHALOM - meaning a binding together, to join or to weave*
 - *This happens in relation to our relationships with God and with others. Some Christians don't experience the peace God offers because they won't commit to community. They won't join a life group; they won't have people over their home. They isolate themselves with only their spouse and Fox News. Then you wonder why you're stressed. Instead, let SHALOM fill your heart as you engage with other believers - as they prophetically encourage you by simply celebrating what Jesus is doing in their life and in your life*
 - *Mark 12:29-31*
 - *"... Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord,' and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your should, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'*
'The second is this, 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself,' there is no other commandment greater than these."
 - **Peace is also the freedom from trouble...**
 - *But let me add... it is not the absence of trouble!*
 - **Peace is not the absence of trouble, it is freedom from the trouble that surrounds.**

Either you trust Jesus daily or you don't. Choose to trust Him. You'll be glad you did. I'm 38 years old. I've been following Jesus since I was 12. I'm a pastor! And I STILL at times, will need the Holy Spirit to help me TRUST that Jesus knows what He's doing! Trusting God is an ongoing life lesson that produces the fruit of the Spirit.

Turn to Mark 4

Mark 4:35-41

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” 36 So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). 37 But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

38 Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?” 39 When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm.

40 Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

41 The disciples were absolutely terrified. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!”

Jesus is at peace in the boat in the middle of the storm.

The disciples however, are completely stressed out - afraid for their lives!

Imagine this... Imagine you’re them... Waves are coming over the boat. It’s probably pitch black apart from the moonlight. You’re worried if you’re gonna make it out alive.

Have you seen that show “I shouldn’t be Alive” Great show!

The disciples that day we’re thinking “Well. I’m gonna be on the next episode!”

The lie that Satan, your enemy, will tell you when things are going bad is that

“God simply doesn’t care. He doesn’t care about you and your pain.”

That lie could’t be further from the truth! Jesus cares deeply about you and He has true empathy for the pain or stress that you’re facing - or that you will face in the future. He cares. He knows. What you need to remember is that He is WITH you! That’s the truth. The question is - where is your trust? Where is your focus?

When you know who’s in the boat, you're unafraid of the storm.

The disciples were focused too much on the storm and too little on their Lord.

Where are you putting your focus?

Are you thinking and mulling over the financial hole you're in - worried you'll never get out and assuming you'll never get out. Then your focus is on the wrong thing. Instead, focus on the Lord and declare His provision then focus on the plan to get OUT of that hole.

Pilots know this. They've done tests. If they tell a new pilot "Don't hit ..." what happens? They're likely to hit it. Because your body will always follow where your eyes are looking. It's true in life too. Your life will always go in the direction of your focus - what you're thinking about most. If you think only of your problem and your peace thief (the storm and waves in the case of the disciples) then you'll miss the opportunity to focus on and trust in the Lord and Savior who sitting nearby.

I'm going to list some Peace Thieves in a moment - one of them is worry over finances.

If the peace thief is finances and you're saying over and over "my parents were broke. I'm gonna be broke forever and that's just how it is..." well then YES you will in deed be broke ... forever. LOL But IF INSTEAD you focus on Deut 28-30 and declare that God promises you to be lender and not the borrower - if you believe that - focus (think!) on that and then focus on a plan to lower your costs and increase your income, THEN my friend you will soon have peace in the area of your finances. Guys this is Scripture.

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. Prov 27

If you focus on what Paul says in 2 Cor 8:2 “In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.”

WAIT WHAT? How can someone facing poverty develop overwhelming joy and rich generosity? That’ doesn’t make sense? That’s right. It’s SUPER natural. When a believer is focused on Jesus - every day - letting the Spirit of Jesus take root then the FRUIT of spirit simply is manifested. That fruit of PEACE and KINDNESS or generosity simply just happens.

Why? They’re not looking at the storm. They’re looking at the Savior.

They’re not looking at earth. They’re looking at Heaven.

They’re not looking at the problem. They’re looking at the solution.

Every obstacle in your life is an opportunity for a miracle.

Where is your focus?!

What are you focused on?

I’m not saying that your bills go away if you just read scripture aloud. I’m still a realist. I’m just saying I’ve seen too many miracles to persuade me otherwise! I’m not saying that your broken family relationship will suddenly be restored in a weekend. Some may take time and persistent prayer like Jesus says in Luke 11. But I am saying that the Bible is clear **“Whatever is true. Whatever is trustworthy, honorable, praise-worthy... think upon THESE things”**

This is a COMMAND. THINK. FOCUS on the goodness of GOD the person of JESUS. The key to your peace is thinking in alignment with the Word of God. The key to your mental health is the person of Jesus Christ. Make the choice to think on, focus on the goodness of God in each and every situation.

So what we’re really talking about is making a choice - practicing peace.

Practicing Peace

When we invite the Prince of Peace to lead our day at start of each day, when the whirlwind comes - the unexpected meeting at work -

the threat of layoffs - the Your peace isn't shaken.

If possible - put on the screen -

I know this will be small on the screen so I want to remind you that you can download a PDF of every sermon on the Sermon Notes page of our website. Just click "RESOURCES" then "SERMON NOTES"

PEACE THIEVES	SOLUTION
Worry about my future and/or income	*Trust that God is guiding my steps as I follow Him *Put a plan in place: raise income & lower costs
Worry over my children's future	Surrender/Dedication of them to God / Hannah
Fear of punishment	Ro 8:1 There is NO condemnation for those who are in Christ... Gospel declares what JESUS did.
Fear of being alone	Believe the promise that Jesus is truly with you. RO 8:38; MT 28:29; MT 6; HEB 13:5
Comparison (mind of Christ video?)	A) Gratitude - a CHOICE to say Thank You Lord B) Trusting that God knows what's best for YOU and has given YOU everything YOU need for godliness & what YOU need to succeed.
Regret	Making the needed change for better future
Indecisiveness	"A double-minded man should expect to receive nothing from the Lord."

- *Peace is the highest good, it is enjoying the very best possible*
- *It is wholeness and soundness of heart and mind...*
- *There is peace available for you!*

Peace is not only a choice that we make, it's also gift from God - a promise.

// Peace is a promise.

- Peace - true peace - is a supernatural gift from God. It is not earned but rather given as a gift - a promise. Therefore it's received. I must realize that God is wanting to give it to me; I must reach out and receive it into my life.

I want to ask you today - have you REALLY received this gift of God's peace? Because it's a fruit of the spirit that GOD'S SPIRIT will bring about in you - withIN you - even if the world around you is going crazy!

- *No-one expected the pandemic and the ensuing depression and lock-downs. This was added ON TOP of many stressed out families across America.*
- *This continues to impact and effect not only adults, but the kids...*
 - *According to the National Institute of Mental Health - 31% (almost 1/3rd) of US adults are dealing with some sort of anxiety disorder....*
 - *That can be stress, social issues, panic disorder, general anxiety disorders, stress and more...*
 - *In adolescents (Anxiety and Depression Association of America) from the age of 13-18 - 31.9% deal with anxiety disorders...*
 - *Perform poorly in school, miss out on social experiences, and ultimately may engage in substance abuse...*
- *LETS BE REAL TODAY - BE REAL ABOUT MEDICATIONS*
- *More and more pills... are being created and recommended to deal with this onslaught in our country...*
- *Can I submit to you today, that **there is hope... that there is a way to experience peace in your life that doesn't require a pill, a substance to remove your anxiety. His name is Jesus...** and before you scoff and blow me off this morning because I went all spiritual...before you say "Jordan, don't be so naive..." let me ask... have you tried Jesus? Have you truly tried Him. Friend, I've been in ministry 18 years and I've seen God heal people completely - body soul AND MIND and so you can't tell me He is unable to heal your mind - your racing thoughts - your anxiety. I've seen God heal people in this area TOO many times! He IS ABLE!*
 - *Let me say this... **anxiety, depression and all that comes with that, is real. People experience different levels of them based on genetics, personality, outside influences, broken relationship, disappointment from a failed dream - all of these can trigger extreme grief and anxiety.***
 - *I feel like the pentecostal church has made those that struggle in these areas out to be the victims of their own situation and fears... pastors and churches have questioned the spiritual health and depth of those that have chosen to take medicines*

to assist. I've even heard pastors belittle people and talk down to them in a sermon - something Jesus would never do. Jesus is drawn to the hurting - Jesus kneels down and gets eye to eye with those who are hurting.

- I feel like someone might need to hear this - if you've taken medication for your mind, that it is alright! Don't live in shame. The mind is just like another part of your body - that when it's hurt - it might need medicine for a time period. If you cut your arm, you're probably gonna clean the wound, put neosporine on and put a bandage on it. You don't leave the bandage there forever. You don't put medicine on it forever, but for a time period, you do. Likewise it's my personal belief that the mind may need medicine for a while but not forever.
- **You and your doctor need to make those decisions. But don't let those medications become the norm for your life - don't think that you will need them forever. I believe personally - and you can work out your own faith journey w the Lord just like scripture says - but for me personally - I believe medications can be helpful for a season - but they shouldn't become normalized for the entirety of your life.**
- But, let me say, don't stop at medicine... **allow God to move in your life...** and we as a church can be praying and walking alongside with you and with others that are struggling... we need to allow the Lord to move through us in healing and standing in the gap together.
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- **Secondly when it comes to this, I want to say that in the Christian culture we need to normalize counseling.** For some reason, we use the word "counseling" like it's some sort of cuss word. It's the C word. Yeah, she got so bad she needed "counseling" Listen, the Bible is FULL of scriptures talking about the WISE person ASKS for counsel. It's the FOOL who thinks they don't need counseling. If you ever say "I never needed to call for help once!" Well friend that's not a statement you should say as a believer. That's a statement that displays an inner pride - a self reliance instead of a GOD- reliance. You can only grow into the person God wants you to be through the Spirits' work in your life that comes through RHEMA (God to you) and through people.
- We need to NORMALIZE counseling. I told someone a few weeks ago "I went to Emerge for a while to get counseling regarding the

trauma and drama of 2020. I needed it! It was humbling. Yup. I like whispered it to people "Where you going today" Oh nowhere. Running some errands. Writing a blog devotion. (Whisper) Getting counseling for extreme stress and pastoral fatigue in Akron at 2pm" WHY DO WE DO THIS AS CHRISTIANS? We shouldn't. Proverbs says a WISE MAN asks for help. A fool thinks they don't need counseling. I've called Ohio Ministry Network 3 or 4 times about a few difficult situations I needed counseling on. I've asked 4 or 5 times for advice on planting churches from other pastors who've done it. Why? I need counseling. My wife and I went for marriage counseling last year once or twice. Why? Because we were on the brink? No. Because we want a strong marriage, a healthy marriage; because the Bible tells us to reach out and ask for wisdom.

- ***Peace is a choice. If I don't have peace in an area, maybe I need to ask myself "Have I been too prideful to ask for help - for wisdom?" Peace, at times, is a choice. Choose to focus on JESUS. Choose to ask for counseling.***

This morning, I'm talking about the fruit of the spirit, PEACE. God's Peace Supernatural Peace.

Hebrews 13:5

"Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"

This scripture makes it clear that we are never to be afraid of violence or live in any sort of panicked state. We can truly believe that Jesus is with us and will protect us. His Word promises us that angels are sent to minister to us and protect us.

Joshua 23:14

"Not one of the good promises the Lord your God made to you has failed. Everything was fulfilled for you; not one promise has failed."

I will be with you." Jesus, the Prince of Peace, makes this promise on the heels of saying "don't worry about your financial situation" Hebrews 13:5

Jesus said "The peace I give you...

Every December during Christmas, we're reminded of the promise that Jesus will bring peace. The throng of angels declared it from heaven itself "Peace on earth and good will towards men."

God has a peace for you that can only come from God.
*The peace that you desire in life can only come through Christ.

Peace is a promise!

- **Internal Battles of our Mind** - we talked about that already.
- **Peace of Conquest**
 - John 16:33
 - “I have told you these things , so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” **Knowing Jesus wins will help you! Zoom out!**
 - This is the peace that is independent of conditions and environment, the peace which no sorrow, danger, suffering, or experience can take away. Again my dad did an excellent job teaching on this last week. Knowing Jesus has victory over the deceit and trouble of this age will bring you peace. Study the word. Memorize those scriptures and *then* you will have peace.
- **Peace of Assurance**
 - Romans 8:28
 - “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”
 - This is unquestionable confidence, the peace with a sure knowledge that one’s life is in the hands of God and that all things work out for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. In other words - there’s a peace that comes into your mind when you know that God is ordering your steps. How can you know this? He promises is. Peace is a promise. He says that He *orders the steps of a righteous person*. What is a righteous person? Someone who’s focus is

on Jesus - someone who's aim and desire is to please Jesus.

Let's discuss a story in the Bible that displays the compassion of God when it comes to our need for peace.

Turn to JN 2

JOHN 2:1-11

The next day there was a wedding celebration in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. 3 The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

4 "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

5 But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

6 Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons.[b] 7 Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, 8 he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.

9 When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. 10 "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

11 This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Let's just say it like it is... Why did Jesus do a party trick for His first miracle?

Well, ok maybe it wasn't really a "party trick" but doesn't it seem odd that Jesus would simply make a party better for his debut appearance? I mean why not make a leg grow or open blind eyes? I think it's because there's more to this miracle than meets the eye.

So what happened? In John chapter 2, we read that Jesus arrives with His disciples to a wedding in a small town called Cana. Now you have to realize that in that time period, life was rough. I mean really rough. Forget the AC and comfy seats you likely have at your job. It was hot, difficult work for most people so a wedding was a reprieve - a great way to celebrate, kick back and relax and in that culture at the center of these parties was the wine. It was an incredible embarrassment for the groom to run out of wine. In their culture, the groom was promised to his fiancé but then took time to build a home or an addition on his father's house to prepare a place for them to live. He was also responsible for the wedding preparations, including the wine. So on this day, in this moment, this groom was stressed out! He and his family were about to be highly embarrassed and not just in front of strangers but in front of their friends. This was a small town; everyone knows each other. These were people they saw often. This would be a story that would stick with them for years to come.

We can assume Mary, Jesus' mom was part of the festivity planning somehow or at least knew the groom's family because she was informed early about this dilemma. What comes to mind "Well, my son is the son of God and it's time He do something with that power!" You gotta wonder about Jesus' response though, right? He says "Woman (not mom) What does this have to do with me?"

WOW! Cold right? Not really. He is separating Himself from his earthly family and making it clear who He really is. We know this because just days later He responds "Who is my father and who is my mother? He who does the will of God." He wasn't being rude to His mom. He was simply focused on His mission to give His life on the cross and He knew that doing a miracle like this would push the first domino over. If He were to do this, people would start talking and the road to the cross would begin. His mother's response is priceless "Do whatever He says." She's like "Look, you're still my son and you've always obeyed and you're not about to ignore your mother."

Jesus takes the jars of water - 6 of them representing the number of man - the end of man's ability - and turns them into wine! The servants pass it out in total shock and to top it off, the guests comment "you've saved the best wine for last!" Usually the best wine is served first because as people get drunk, they care less about the quality of the wine. So back to our question... Why did Jesus turn water into wine? I'll tell you why.

Jesus cares deeply about you. He cares about what stresses you out and robs you of your peace. Jesus was on a mission and He knew that this miracle would set things in motion. But **He also knew that this groom was about to be embarrassed and Jesus cared enough to give him a financial miracle and make this moment a story to be told for the ages in the best kind of way.** Now this bride and groom would have a miracle story - a joyful testimony to tell for years to come instead of a shameful memory.

Again, Jesus cares deeply about you. He is the visible image of the invisible God. He carries the heart of Father God and displays the characteristics of Father God everywhere He goes. He showed great compassion to this couple and He wants to show great compassion to you. No matter what you're facing, no matter what the "water" is, Jesus can turn it into wine!

Jesus and only Jesus can transform you - taking you from a person filled with guilt, fear, shame or anxiety and turns you into a person full of love and peace, generosity and liberty! Only Jesus can turn water into wine!

He gave this couple peace and He can give YOU peace. Simply patiently wait for His miraculous power! Call upon His name!

The peace that you desire in life can only come through Christ.

That inner peace can lead to a life of outward peace and patience - a life that bears fruit that OTHERS can enjoy. Fruit doesn't benefit the tree. It benefits people who visit the tree. The fruit of the Spirit isn't so much for you - it's for others to experience the goodness of God when they visit you.

Kindness and Goodness

These two fruit - Kindness & Goodness can be also defined as generosity, right? Generously giving what you have for the benefit of another - especially someone who might not be able to return the favor - that is the KINDNESS of GOD - the fruit of the Spirit.

God makes a promise to us - a promise of blessing when we care for the weak and vulnerable and love the least of these.

Jeremiah 22:1-5

This is what the Lord says: “Go down to the palace of the king of Judah and proclaim this message there: 2 ‘Hear the word of the Lord to you, king of Judah, you who sit on David’s throne—you, your officials and your people who come through these gates. 3 This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. 4 For if you are careful to carry out these commands, then kings who sit on David’s throne will come through the gates of this palace, riding in chariots and on horses, accompanied by their officials and their people. 5 But if you do not obey these commands, declares the Lord, I swear by myself that this palace will become a ruin.’”

There’s a promise the lord will bless you w the people everyone wants if you’ll care for the people none wants. We obviously don’t care for the needy and weak because we want a blessing. We do it to simply love God and let His love flow out of us. But it is interesting that God says He will bless us when we do.
Dream can’t in LA.

Don’t forget also what Jesus said. “When I was hungry, you fed me. When I was in prison, you visited me. When I was a stranger without a place to stay, you took me in and called me friend.”

The disciples said “Lord, when did we see you in prison or without food...?” Jesus said “When you done these to the least of these you’ve done them unto Me.”

Loving the poor and hurting, the marginalized of our society, you are loving Jesus. You want to meet Jesus? Face to face? Spend time with someone who’s really hurting. You want to meet Jesus and feel His presence like never before? Spend time helping someone in need. You’ll find a kind of presence far different than something you’d feel in a worship service. Jesus is THERE among the broken, the sick and tired, the orphan, the divorcee, the just laid off, the homeless, the grieving. THAT’s where Jesus is.

Good Samaritan Story

David adopts Mephibosheth