

Sunday March 12, 2023

Service for Swansea and Charlestown Presbyterian Church

Welcome and Prayer

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. ²Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. ³For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. ⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth and the mountain peaks belong to him. ⁵The sea is his, for he made it and his hands formed the dry land. ⁶Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; ⁷for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

Let's Pray. Sovereign Lord, what a great privilege it is to come into your presence this morning. To be able to sing to the rock of our salvation. To be able to come before you in thanksgiving and to praise you with music and song. To be able to humble ourselves in worship, to pray to our maker and to place ourselves under your sovereign care.

We admit that we don't come to you often enough, and we don't thank you enough, nor are we humble enough, dependent enough, passionate enough. Please forgive us. Forgive us because for everything we have done wrong, whether we have done or said or acted in the wrong way or failed to do, say or act in the right way, that wrongdoing meant that your Son Jesus had to die on the cross to forgive us that sin. So we thank you for Jesus. May he become more and more real to us today as we sing, listen, pray, reflect and commit this time to you now. And we ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song – Sooner Count the Stars - [YouTube Video](#)

1. I could sooner count the stars
Than number all Your ways
Though I only know in part
That part exceeds all praise
As sunlight fills the skies
Your goodness fills my life
For all Your precious gifts
Receive my gratefulness

CHORUS

No praise is high enough
No thanks is deep enough
No life is long enough
To tell of all You've done
No shout is loud enough
No words are strong enough
No song is sweet enough
To sing Your love

2. I could sooner drink the seas
fathom all Your love
Like a never ceasing stream
Are mercies through Your Son
The death of Christ alone
Deserves eternal song
For such a love as His
Receive my gratefulness

3. I could sooner turn back time
turn Your heart away
Though the years go fleeting by
Your mercies never change
Before You made the sun
Your love was set on us
For all Your faithfulness
Receive my gratefulness
To sing Your love

Bible Reading – Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two

more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' ²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' ²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' ²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' ²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. ²⁸ "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Announcements 12/3/23

Lords Supper. The Presbyterian Church tends to have the Lords Supper once a quarter. In this way it can be a way we reconnect with God and think through our relationship with Jesus and his people. Please, if you are able, spend time preparing your hearts and mind for the bread and the wine.

Focus for March – Connecting. How do we connect with someone? There are plenty of ways we could do that. We could talk to them over a cup of coffee; We could invite them over for a meal, you could go for a walk with them, you could introduce them to another Christian person/couple/family; you could invite them to your home group; you could sit next to them at Church. Or we could be creative and find others ways to do this.

Camp Weekend. Many thanks to all those who made the camp weekend so successful. It was a lot of hard work for a lot of people but as A Church we certainly enjoyed the way it all worked out

Upcoming Dates

- Kids Church Training – Sunday 19th March after AM Church. For all those who will be helping out with Kids Church this year.
- Ladies Event – Time Our Together. Please join us for some time together, sharing afternoon tea and being encouraged by one another. Saturday 25th March 2-4pm @ Charlestown Hall. RSVP by 20th March to Linda or Jannah
- Annual Congregational Meetings – Sunday 26th March at Swansea from 9am and at Charlestown from 11:20am
- Family Fun Day – Sunday 2nd April

Annual Meeting. At our annual meetings we will electing a new elder Mal Wardrop at the Swansea meeting, and at Charlestown we will be discussing forming a Deacons Court, discussing our 2022 finances, agreeing to a 2023 financial budget, making a decision on a possible Church Redevelopment at Charleston and electing a new Committee of Management for the next 12 months. Please come along and have your say on these important issues.

Kids Talks. If anyone would like to be on the roster to do a kids talk about once every two months, could you please see Jon.

PWA Rally. Called to Serve @ East Maitland Presbyterian Church on Thursday 16th March 2023 from 11am. Bring a sandwich lunch. For more details Bev Paterson 0409 571 141

Church Seating. While it has been great having lots of people at our morning services, most of the spare seats are towards the front of the church. To make things easier for those who are new, or possibly arriving

late, it would be most helpful if we could fill up the seating from the front of the building, and move towards the middle of each row, also allowing space on the aisle. The back row of seating is made available for families with young children.

Day Off. Our ministers are always available in an emergency but Jon tends to take Thursdays off and Stephen Saturday so if you could avoid contacting them on those days, they would appreciate it.

Bible Reading – Matthew 25:30-46 (NIV)

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴ “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, ³⁶ 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.’ ³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 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.’ ⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ ⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ ⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ ⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Pastoral Prayer Points

Pray for Ethiopia: Pray for a resurgence of the deep Christian beliefs held by this nation from the earliest Church history. Pray for militant Muslims to know the truth of Jesus Christ and to stop persecuting believers.

Pray for the NSW State Election, 25 March: Pray for MPs and candidates to share clear, detailed information about their policies and values, so voters can be fully informed and vote wisely.

Pray for our church: Pray the Lord would make us good soil to receive the good seed of the word. Pray that Christ may be formed in us and live in us so that all our thoughts may be brought into captivity to Him. Pray our hearts will be established in every good work forever.

Appleby’s (Cambodia, CMS). Praise God for the 25 000 people who came to the Gospel Centenary Celebrations, Cambodians and foreigners, all celebrating together as brothers and sisters in Christ, proclaiming his glory and the story of what he’s done in Cambodia to the nation. The media and government representatives, including the Prime Minister and his eldest son, saw Cambodian Christians coming together in unity and expressing their faith in Jesus through cultural dance, dress and music, changing the stereotype that to be Christian was to be a traitor to your culture. Please pray for Ruth and Gilbert as they seek direction for ongoing results and treatment for her cancer in Australia that they be in alignment with God’s purposes and through this situation.

Song – Behold the Lamb - [YouTube Video](#)

1. Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away
Slain for us and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross

[Chorus]

So we share in this bread of life
And we drink of his sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King

2. The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
Torn for you, eat and remember
The wounds that healed
The death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one

[Chorus]

3. The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,
Shed for you, drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God

Sermon – Why should I let you into my heaven? - Stephen T

One day we are all going to stand before God. It will be judgement day, for you and for me and for all the rest of us. Now if God was to ask you on that day, “Why should I let you into my heaven” I wonder what you would say? The orthodox answer, the right answer might be something like this. “Because I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for my salvation. He has died for my sins and so I have turned from those sins and now trust in and have accepted his gracious offer of eternal life.” That would be a great answer.

But what if there was a follow up question. “Okay, what evidence is there that you really have believed in Jesus? What change has God’s grace have on your life?” What then would you say? For that is what our passage is on about today. What evidence is there in our lives that God’s good gift of grace has made a difference in the way that we have lived?

You see this passage warns us that on the last day there will be three types of people. There will be those who have received God’s inheritance and whose lives now reflect their Lord and Saviour Jesus. And then there will be those who profess to be Christians but whose lives betray that belief. And then there will be others who have made no such confession and so whose lives don’t reflect Jesus at all. And the first group of people get to go to heaven and the second and third groups will end up in hell. And so the challenge for us today is to work out not just if we have relied upon God’s grace but if that faith has changed our lives.

Slide 2

Now we are picking up Matthew’s gospel right near the end of Jesus life. In fact, he has just three more days to live. He is heading toward the cross, the most important moment in his life. When Jesus will be enthroned as king. Where he will show his power over sin and Satan and death by rising to life after three days. This will establish God’s kingdom for all to see. And sometime later Jesus will return back to earth and claim his kingdom.

But before he goes to the cross, he teaches his disciples about the day, that day, when he will return. No one knows the day or the hour but each person will know it when it comes. And so they need to be ready because that will be the end of the world and the beginning of either eternal life or eternal judgement, of heaven or hell. Which means everyone needs to be ready. And heed the sobering teaching that Jesus is now giving us.

Slide 3

1. Heed! (Verses 31-33)

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.”

For that day will be a glorious day. When Jesus first came to earth, he did so in all humility, he was born out of wedlock to a carpenter and a teenage girl. But when he comes again, he will have the glory of the one and only God. He will have angels in tow. And he will sit on the throne in heavenly glory. And what does Jesus do on that throne? He will judge the nations.

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He will judge all the people of the world. He will judge the Jews and the Gentiles. Those in the Church and those in the community, the righteous and the unrighteous. And there will be only two types of people. Those who are his sheep, who have followed the good shepherd and those who are the goats, those who never really knew Jesus.

This is the mighty and terrible day of the Lord. The day when the judge of the earth, Jesus makes his final pronouncement. And there will be no appeal to his decision. You can't ask the High Court to check on his judgement. It is irrevocable and eternal. And you will either be told you are a sheep or a goat. You will go to heaven or to hell.

Slide 5

Elsewhere in the Bible, we are told that Jesus will separate the wheat from the weeds, the corn from the chaff, the good fish from the bad fish but here the sheep are separated from the goats. For in those days the sheep and the goats looked quite similar, for the sheep didn't have the woolly coat that they have today. So the Jewish farmer kept them together throughout the day. But at night goats needed a warm, sheltered environment and sheep don't, so that was when the shepherd would divide the sheep from the goats.

Likewise, saved people and unsaved people look quite similar. You can't tell the one from the other because of their clothes or their nationality or their appearance. They live together in the same families, in the same streets, in the same countries, even in the same Churches. Like the sheep and the goats, you can't exactly tell which are which. But the just judge can. He knows his sheep. He has a personal relationship with each one of his own.

Slide 6

So the first part of our passage tells each one of us that we are accountable to God's righteous judge, Jesus. We may be free to live our lives as we want to now, but one day Jesus will make a judgement on each one of us. There will be no exceptions. There will be no favouritism. There will be no excuses. For one day, the one we have made a judgement on, is he really from God? Did he really die and rise again? Is he really important? The one we have judged, Jesus, will judge us, wisely, fairly, justly.

Now this is part of the good news of the gospel. There will one day be a just judgement. So everyone who has been wrongly dealt with, will see that person get their just desserts. But the flip side is that we will also get our just deserts for everything we have done to others and for every time we neglected to do good to others. And so we need to share the truth that this judgment day is coming. Coming soon, to us all. To a suburb near to each one of us.

And we don't do it triumphantly or with a sense of superiority because we know that when Jesus gets to judge us, we deserve damnation. We deserve to go to hell. That without God's grace and mercy we would be eternally separated from God. Which is why we call on people to trust in Jesus. To put their hope in Jesus. He is our only hope. For we want all people to be ready for, **to heed** the warning in this passage.

2. Heaven. (Verses 34-40)

³⁴ *"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.'"*

For Jesus wants to tell us that on that day of judgement some will go heaven. They will be given the key to the kingdom prepared for us since the creation of the world. Picking up the imagery of Matt 24-25 they now get to join the wedding feast, they are overcome with God's blessings, they enter the joy of the Father, they receive an inheritance of eternal life.

An inheritance. So it can't be based on what we do, because it's a gift of grace. An inheritance prepared for us before the creation of the world. Before we did any visiting, any feeding, any caring. This passage has often been used to tell people that we are saved by works, by caring for the poor and feeding the hungry. But that can't be true. Those who are blessed receive an inheritance, a gift made available to us before we did anything. Anything.

Slide 8

The rest of the Bible makes that quite clear. Ephesians 2:8 *"For it by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast."* Salvation is by grace not works. Heaven is a gift not a reward. But in the words of John Calvin, *"It is faith alone which justifies and yet the faith which justifies is not alone."* True faith shows itself in good works. For Paul continues on in Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

Those who are saved by grace, will be so changed by that grace that they will now do the works that God has prepared them to do. They will become more and more like Jesus. Genuine faith you see is backed up by good works. Which is why the Jesus goes on to say...

Slide 9

³⁴ *"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. 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.'"*

The sheep didn't just write a cheque for the hungry and the thirsty, they actually fed the hungry and gave the thirsty something to drink. The sheep didn't just pray for the stranger, they invited the stranger into their own home. The sheep didn't just give to a charity to help people who needed clothing, they gave them some of their own clothing. They didn't support prison fellowship but went to the jail cell and visited those in prison.

Without any thought of reward, they gave of themselves, their time, their talents. They gave the needy what they needed. They didn't give things beyond their reach but simple things like food and clothing. Things that any one of us here not matter what our age or bank balance or Christian maturity can do. And when they did these things, they did them for Jesus.

Slide 10

³⁷ *"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.'"*

Let's think about this for a moment, because this concept blows my mind. Jesus so identifies himself with his brothers, his disciples, that when we do an act of kindness to them, we are actually doing it to Jesus as well. When I give a fellow Christian a glass of water and when I do it in Jesus' name, I do for Christ. For Jesus lives within the lives of each of his followers. So how you would treat your brothers and sisters in Christ whom you do see, is how you would treat your Saviour Jesus whom you don't see.

Slide 11

That's deep, isn't it? But remember that when God made this world, he made man and woman in his own image. Our likeness resembles God's likeness. Now sin has tarnished that likeness and our wrongdoings hides God's glory. But when we become Christians, God takes up residence again in our bodies through His son and His Spirit. Which is why Paul when he was persecuting the Church in Acts 9, finds out that he was actually persecuting Jesus.

Which has two extra implications. Firstly, it means when we go through hard times, we are not going through that alone. Jesus is with us. We might ask ourselves where is God in all of this? Well, he is within us suffering what we have suffered. He is with us in disguise. And secondly if Jesus identifies with his brother and sister who is poor or sick or in prison it reminds us that God doesn't always answer our prayers to avoid these things. Hardships were a part and parcel of Jesus life and they will be also a part and parcel of our lives. The Christian life is not just health and wealth but in the midst of the tough times, Jesus is always there and his sons and daughters should also always be there to help us out.

You see some have read this passage as saying how we treat the poor is a measure of our faith. But here Jesus is talking about "*the least of these brothers and sisters of mine.*" Not just the poor in general but his people that are poor. Not just the one who is sick or in prison but your Christian brother and sister who is sick or in prison.

Slide 12

Do you remember what Jesus said in Matthew 12? "*He answered... "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."* All who do the will of My Father in heaven are my siblings.

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The standard that Jesus uses is how do you treat your fellow Christian? How do you treat the members of your local Church and the worldwide Church? Have you visited anyone here in hospital? Have you taken the time to contact a believer in prison? When was the last time you helped someone in real need? I am not just talking giving a donation or praying for them but actually doing something physical to help them in their need.

So if you can't come to Church regularly, how are you going to know what the needs of your Christian family are? If you don't spend the time to work on relationships with fellow believers, where are you going to find the time to go the extra mile when they need it. And if you are not informed about the state of God's people in Vanuatu or Iran or Japan then what will you say at the judgement day when you find out that God so identified with these people that he was with them in great suffering but you and I walked by on the other side?

But how do I know who is my brother in Christ and who isn't? It's hard, isn't it? Because the non-Christians don't just have a 666 on their forehead. And Christians often look exactly the same as anyone else. But aren't they our neighbour anyway and aren't we are called to love our neighbour? And doesn't Paul say in Galatians 6 "*therefore as we have opportunity, let us **do good to all people**, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*"

I am not saying this is easy. I am not saying that you and I are even able to live up to that standard. But that's where the power of God comes into play. That is why you will only be able to do these things if you have a relationship with Jesus. If you are saved by grace, you are then changed so that you might do the good works that he has prepared for you to do.

Slide 14

Tony Campolo tells the story "I was walking down the street in Philadelphia and a bum came towards me. I mean a dirty, filthy guy. He was covered with soot from head to toe. He had this huge beard and there was rotted food stuck in the beard. As he approached me, he held out a cup of McDonald's coffee and said, "Hey mister, want some of my coffee?"

I looked at his dirty, filthy man and said, "Thanks, but that's okay," and I walked by him. The minute I passed him, I knew I was doing the wrong thing, so I turned around and said, "Excuse me. I would like some of your coffee." I took some of the coffee and sipped it and gave it back to him. I said, "You're being generous. How come you're being so generous today?"

And this bum looked at me and he said, "Because the coffee was especially delicious today and I think that when God gives you something good, you ought to share it with people."

I didn't know how to handle that, so I said, "Can I give you anything?" I thought that he would hit me for five dollars. He said, "No." Then he said, "Yeah, yeah. I've changed my mind, there is something you can give me. You can give me a hug." I was hoping for the five dollars! He put his arms around me and I put my arms around him. And as I in my suit and tie, and he in his filthy garb hugged each other on the street, I had the strange awareness that I wasn't hugging a bum, I was hugging Jesus. I found Jesus in that suffering man."

Friends that is a sobering thought, isn't it? Jesus could be in that homeless man! It was Matthew Henry who said "*Christ is more amongst us than we think he is. For surely the Lord is in this place, by his word, his ordinances, his Spirit and yet in the poor and we know it not.*"

So, let's have ourselves a little reality check. Who is that person in the Church that you have had a disagreement with? Is it someone who just doesn't understand the facts or is it Jesus? Who is that young woman with the screaming baby, is it a person who can't control their kids or is Jesus? Who is that annoying person who seems to make a beeline to you each week? Someone with a mental illness or Jesus? And what if you have been too busy to go to Church the last few weeks? By doing that have you missed out on being with Jesus?

Slide 15

3. Hell. (Verses 41-45)

But then our passage raises with us the possibility there are some people who think they are Jesus disciples but who are not, in fact, faithful. ⁴¹ "*Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'*"

You see there is not just a heaven but a hell. A place where people are separated from God and everything that is good. A place where they are cursed. A place of eternal fire. Where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, a home of eternal darkness. A place not made for them but actually prepared for the devil and his cohort of demons. But if you have rejected your God then you have aligned yourself with Satan, you get to go where he is going. Hell.

For all eternity. But I think it is interesting that those who go there are not described as liars and murderers and adulterers, they are not in this case defined by what they have done. But by what **they haven't done**. It is not their sins of commission that got them into trouble but their sins of omission. For sin is not just doing bad things but it is failing to do the right things. Sin is not visiting those who were sick. Sin is not sharing your belongings with others. Sin is not using your talents. Sin is not caring for God's people.

Slide 16

One day the smallest boy in the family looked up at dad and said, "Dad, every evening we ask Jesus to come and be our guest, but He never comes." His father said, "We can only wait for Him to appear!" The little boy thought for a moment and said, "Well, then if we expect Him to come and have dinner with us, why don't we set a place for Him at the table?"

Wanting to make the little boy happy, his mother set out extra cutlery, a plate and a cup at the end of the table. Not long after the place was set, they heard a knock at the door. When the door was opened, they saw a poor man who was hungry. The little boy looked at his father and said, "Jesus could not come today but He sent this poor man in His place." The man was invited in and he enjoyed a good meal.

You see many of us would be willing to help others but we are blind to their needs. So, we don't do it. Because we are too busy. Or are too preoccupied. Or we never get around to it.

Slide 17

4. Hope

But Jesus was never too busy. He found time to help the blind man, the lame man, the widow who lost her son, the 5,000 who were hungry, the Samaritan woman who needed living water, the woman caught in adultery. His life was filled with those sorts of good works. And those who have received his grace, will over time, share his love and kindness with others. Especially to his brothers and sisters in the faith but even to the lost.

Because think about it your judge is your saviour. The one who modelled it for you, is now with you and he is the one that will judge you. You will be able to say to yourself, the court is stacked. I am safe. The inheritance that was given to me before the creation of the world is mine. Lord, help me to be changed by this grace so much that I will reflect your nature to everyone that I meet today, starting with God's people that I am worshipping with right now

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Martin of Tours was a Roman soldier and a Christian. One cold winter day, as he was entering a city, a beggar stopped him and asked for money. Martin had no money, but the beggar was blue and shivering with cold and Martin gave him what he had. He took off his soldier's cloak, worn and frayed as it was; he cut it in two and gave half of it to the beggar. That night Martin had a dream. In it he saw the heavenly places and all the angels and Jesus in the midst of them; and Jesus was wearing half a Roman soldier's cloak. One of the angels said to Jesus, "Master, why are you wearing that battered old cloak? Who gave it to you?" Jesus answered softly, "My servant Martin gave it to me." Friends, whenever we do one of these things to the least of Jesus' brothers, we do them to Him!

Song – Brother let me be your servant

[YouTube Video](#)

1: Brother, let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

4: I will weep when you are weeping,
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through

2: We are pilgrims on a journey,
We are brothers on the road;
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load.

5: When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.

3: I will hold the Christ light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.

6: Brother, let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace
To let you be my servant, too.

Closing. *“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 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.’” (Matthew 25:37-40)*