

You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:3

GLOBAL OUTREACH - WEEK #1

:: How we live confirms who we **LOVE**.

Matthew 25:31-36, 40

31 "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...40 Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

:: What we do for **OTHERS**; we do for Jesus.

Matthew 25:41-45

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, & 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.'"

"How we live now, influences how we live NEXT.

:: Second Gap Ministry is not benevolence based in <u>NEED</u>, but obedience based in <u>LOVE</u>.

James 2:14-17

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

SO WHAT?

:: Choosing our own **COMFORT** is contrary to the Christian life.

2 Timothy 1:9

He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.

:: Choose to be a **SHEEP**, not a **GOAT**.

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

NOTES:

Acts 10:34b-35

"...God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right."

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world so that you can do what others claim cannot be done... [A Franciscan Prayer]







How to start a relationship with Jesus:

- 1) Admit that you, like everyone else, are in need of **rescue**.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins.
- 3) Say <u>YES</u> to God by trusting Jesus as Savior & Lord.

You can do that right now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

God: I accept that you not only created me but love me. I realize you had great expectations for my life; but along the way, I encountered the problem of sin in me - and I forgot who I was. Please rescue me. Forgive me for my sins through Jesus' sacrifice. I believe he rose from the dead to give me a way out, and I choose to follow him as my Lord and Savior from this day forward. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

For Further Reflection:

- :: Knowing we're called to Go.Be.Love, how would you describe love?
- :: What are ways to live our life as a letter from the Holy Spirit to the world? What is our part? What is the Holy Spirit's part?
- :: Take a moment to read/review Matthew 25:31-46.
- :: What are some of your observations from this passage?
- :: What are the characteristics of those identified as sheep? Goats?
- :: What are some of the reasons people end up living as 'goats'?
- :: What are some practical ways to live as 'sheep'?
- :: What happens when we truly love one another?
- :: Discuss what makes it easy/hard to love and serve other people.
- :: Discuss how Matthew 25 connects to the concept of 2nd Gap Ministry?
- :: Pastor Shawn said, "Second Gap Ministry is not benevolence based in need, but obedience based in love." What are the implications of that?
- :: Where are you tempted to choose comfort over purpose?
- :: Identify 1 person you need to more intentionally love this week.



Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV]. Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin), November 12 & 13, 2016

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