



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Who Belongs?

Focus Verse: Mark 10:45 – For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Lesson Text: Mark 10:13-22, 41-52

Truth About God: God loves and cares for those whom the world overlooks.

Truth For My Life: I will look for ways to lovingly serve those who are hurting.

Who Belongs? In God's kingdom, everyone belongs. God's grace is not limited to a select few. The Bible closes with an invitation to whosoever will (Revelation 22:17). Everyone can freely drink from the living water Jesus offers regardless of gender, national origin, ethnic identity, or social status.

Jesus went out of His way to minister to outsiders who had been rejected by the religious and cultural establishment. He stopped by a well in Samaria to minister to a Samaritan woman living in adultery. Jesus traveled to the Gentile lands of Tyre and Sidon where He cast the devil out of a Syrophenician woman's daughter (Mark 7:24-30). He called the tax collector Zacchaeus out of a sycamore tree and went home for dinner with him, causing the whole community to question Jesus' choice of company. **Jesus never apologized for loving people, especially the people everyone else seemed to find distasteful.**

In Mark 10, Jesus ministered to individuals from three distinct walks of life: children, a rich young ruler, and a blind beggar named Bartimaeus. As Spirit-led believers, we must be sensitive to the needs of everyone we encounter. The kindest, most compassionate thing we can do for others is to share the gospel with them. **People need to hear about the God who loves them so much He came to earth and went to the cross for them.** If we are looking for a way to help others, we should begin by sharing the message of eternal salvation.

Jesus did not just have kind feelings in His heart toward others; His actions demonstrated His love. He summed up His intentions in Mark 10:45 when he said, *"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."* Jesus was willing to give everything, even His life, just to minister to others. Loved motivated everything Jesus did.

Matthew summed up Jesus' itinerary by saying, *"Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people"* (Matthew 9:35). He did not stay on the road preaching because He wanted to build His brand or because He was expecting a financial payoff. Rather, as Matthew wrote in the following verse, *"When he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them"* (Matthew 9:36). Compassion moved Jesus. His love was more than a feeling; He expressed it through His actions. However, real love does not always lead to rosy outcomes. Jesus loved people enough to tell them the truth. In the end, He was crucified by those who did not want to hear the truth.

Jesus promised the smallest acts of service would not go unnoticed (Matthew 10:42). Later in the same Gospel, Jesus told a story of sheep and goats. Sheep were those who did His will; goats were those who did not. He concluded Matthew 25 by saying, *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me"* (Matthew 25:40). When we serve others, we are serving Jesus.

Have you ever regretted a missed opportunity to do good? Sometimes we overlook opportunities to show love to others because we are consumed with our own problems. Sometimes life's challenges leave us without the time, energy, or resources to help others. It happens to everyone. But God did not intend for these challenges to be our norm. If we are always so overwhelmed by our own problems that we cannot help others, we should rethink how we are living.

Being like Jesus means ministering to others, no matter who they are or where they are from, no matter what it costs.



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