



**DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS**

**Carstairs-Bancroft United Church**

*April 2, 2024*



Photo: Our Daily Bread

## LOVE GOD BY LOVING OTHERS

*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*

Matthew 25:40

**READ Matthew 25:31-40**

The Alba family experienced the rare occurrence of birthing two sets of identical twins just thirteen months apart. How did they juggle their parental responsibilities as well as their jobs? Their community of friends and family stepped in. Grandparents on both sides took a set of twins during the day so the parents could work and pay for health insurance. One company gave a year's supply of diapers. The couple's coworkers donated their personal sick days. "We couldn't have done it without our community," they agreed. In fact, during a live interview, the cohost removed her mic and ran after one renegade toddler, continuing the communal investment!

In Matthew 25:31–46, Jesus tells a parable to make the point that when we serve others, we serve God. After listing acts of service, including providing food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, lodging for the homeless, clothes for the naked, and healing for the sick (vv. 35–36), Jesus concludes, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (v. 40).

Imagining Jesus as the ultimate recipient of our kindness is true motivation to serve in our neighborhoods, families, churches, and world. When He prompts us to sacrificially invest in the needs of others, we serve Him. When we love others, we love God.

**By Elisa Morgan**

### **PRAY & REFLECT**

**Loving God, please open my eyes to the needs of others around me so I can help them and love You better. Amen**

How might you serve Jesus in your community today? How can you love God by loving others in your path?

### **SCRIPTURE INSIGHT**

In the parable typically referred to as "the sheep and the goats," Jesus describes separating people when He returns as one would separate "the sheep from the goats" (Matthew 25:32). The two groups are separated based on their care of others. The group identified as "righteous" (v. 37) and the other group both address Jesus as "Lord" (vv. 37, 44). This would have reminded hearers of Christ's words in Matthew 7:21 - that "not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." – By **Monica La Rose**

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