

Make a Move - "What If...?"

What if I really cared the way Jesus does for those who are marginalized?

Jesus clearly states His mission to rescue and restore the marginalized. Luke 4:18,19

- Our decision to trust in Jesus is a commitment to join Him in His mission.

God's heart for the poor and marginalized is expressed in the Old Testament.

- Deuteronomy 10:17-19; 15:1-23; Psalm 68:4-5; Proverbs 14:31; 19:17; 31:8-9; Isaiah 58:6-7; Micah 5:8

Jesus continues God's intense interest and love for the marginalized.

- Matthew 11:4-5; 22:39; 25:31-46; Luke 4:18; 10:25-36; 12:33; 14:12-13; 19:8

Examples of loving the marginalized expressed in the New Testament church:

- Acts 2:45; 4:32-37; 6:1-6; 20:35; Romans 15:26; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; Galatians 2:10; James 1:27

How we choose to use our resources shows the true condition of our heart for God.

- Psalm 8:1-9; 24:1 - God owns everything and gives us authority over it but not ownership.

Personal Evaluation: Are there people in my life who I have marginalized?

- Are there people I simply choose not to talk to - people I edge out of my life?
- We must separate a person's failures and sins from the value of God's image in them.

Join Jesus in His sacrificial mission to rescue and restore people from every walk of life.

- We must ask God to help us identify and actively love the marginalized in our lives.

Further Study and Pondering:

1. Identify a time in your life when you felt marginalized. What did that feel like?
2. Why is it important to be proactive in helping the poor and the marginalized?
3. What are the common excuses we use to avoid actively loving the marginalized?
4. Pastor Josh quote: "If you spend more time talking about a certain category of people than you do engaging them in relationship, you have marginalized them." (Do a personal evaluation)
5. How did the early church actively love the marginalized? (Refer to above bullet point)
6. Further study on how Jesus loved the marginalized: (Matthew 9:13; Mark 1:39-45; 12:41-44; Luke 7:11-16; 7:36-39; Luke 10:26-37; 12:31-34; 18:15-17; 18:18-25; John 4:1-27)
7. How can you begin a lifestyle of making God's love, compassion, justice, mercy and grace a part of all of your relationships - especially among the marginalized you meet?
8. Identify at least one person in your everyday life that fits into the category of being marginalized. Ask God to use you to help them feel like a King or a Queen.

Join Jesus in raising up Kings and Queens.