



Live the Message

“One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

– Jesus – Mark 12:28-31 (NAS)

“So fundamental to the life of faith are these twin teachings of loving God and loving neighbor that they are given top priority in God’s original handwritten instructions for daily living. Christ later underscored their central importance by declaring that the entire law is contained in these two inseparable commands.

– Robert D. Lupton, *Compassion, Justice and Christian Life: Rethinking Ministry to the Poor*

“No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.”

– Isaiah 58:6,7 (NLT)

“In our engagement of human suffering, we discover the relevance of God’s suffering on the cross. In our relationships among friends who are oppressed, we discover that establishing justice is something divine and human - spiritual”

– Chris Heuertz, *The Cry, Fall 2008*

“Compassion is nourishment for relationships. It holds families and communities together. Relationships grow stronger through compassion. This ability to be there for others, when it counts, speaks louder than any words. When people are truly there for one another in their darkest hour, the bonds of trust and love go deep.”

– Simon Fox, *The Practice of Compassion*

“North American Christians need to overcome the materialism of Western culture and see poverty in more relational terms. It requires us to understand our brokenness and to embrace the message of the cross in deep and profound ways, saying to ourselves everyday: ‘I’m not ok; and you’re not ok; but Jesus can fix us both.’”

– Corbett & Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts*

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world (James 1:27). You can’t get away from it in scripture: the priority of meeting the needs of the marginalized is the pivot point of true faith.”

– James Cantelon, *When God Stood Up*

“The point is simply that, for His own glory, God has chosen to reveal His Kingdom in the place where the world, in all its pride, would least expect it – among the foolish, the weak, the lowly, and the despised. It is strange indeed to place the poor at the centre of a strategy for expanding a kingdom.”

– Corbett & Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts*

“Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.”

– Isaiah 1:17 (NIV)

“Jesus connected himself forever with Isaiah and his call. And by proclaiming it in the context of worship, he makes it clear this is a call that is to impact who, what and how we are Church. Jesus believed the words of Isaiah. They were the words of his childhood, the text of his training, the soil out of which he grew. He came to fulfill them. Jesus’ connection of himself with the words of Isaiah tell us that this is an important indicator of what Jesus is about and therefore what we are to be about.”

– Karen Stiller, *The Responding Church Network*, World Vision Canada

“When people look at the church, they should see the very embodiment of Jesus! When people look at the church, they should see the One who declared – in word and in deed to the leper, the lame, and the poor – that His kingdom is bringing healing to every speck of the universe.

– Corbett & Fikkert, *When Helping Hurts*