

Gospel Values

Equality

In the Bible, God said, 'Let us make man in his image' and in his image he made him. As God is the creator of all things everything is seen as equal in the eyes of God. His love is no greater for one person over the other. Therefore, we have a duty to treat all of God's creation with equal respect, recognizing the needs of the person stood in front of us and the great worth they have as a child of God.

Service

In the Gospel we hear the story of the woman at Bethany who washes the feet of Jesus with her tears. Jesus mirrors this when he washes the disciples' feet at the last supper. To be powerful is to serve others. To recognize the needs of others and to provide for them is a sign of true leadership.

Justice

In the Bible we hear of prophets speaking out on behalf of the poor and Jesus reaching out to those seen as unworthy to be a part of God's plan of salvation. To deny people their rights as a human being who is created in God's image and for some definite service and purpose, or to ignore those who have their dignity and respect stripped, is to reject God's love for his creation.

Mercy

Mercy is a word that often can be caught up in the understanding of other words such as compassion and empathy. Whilst these do play their part, mercy is far more than just out relating to other people's plight. It is also a requirement to forego our own needs and to place other people's needs first. When we willingly forgive someone for hurting us by understanding the difficulties in their lives is a true act of mercy. By our showing love and compassion even when it may appear to not be reasonable to do so is both merciful and just.

Agape

To love without conditions is something our world discourages. We are told that we should expect something in return if we show some kind of act of love or kindness. Jesus teaches us a different way. To love others is our duty, regardless of who they are or what we think of them. It is not about whether we get thanks or even love in return, it is a deep rooted sense to respect all people of God.

Faith

In the Bible Jesus shows us through his death, resurrection and ascension that if we have faith and trust in God's plan for us, we will be rewarded with so much more. Jesus' declaration of 'your will be done' in the garden of Gethsemane is a reminder that to live out the mission God gives us is one that requires us to trust in God and that through prayer we can grow to understand the calling we have been given and the loving support that God will give us to help us in that mission.

Preparing

Advent is the ideal opportunity to step back and take stock of who and what is important in our lives. For Christians we need to take time to reflect on whether we are ready for the coming of our Saviour and to prepare ourselves through prayer, acts of service and personal sacrifice.