

“THE TALK OF TOWNLEY”

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2019 / Issue 15

SERVE



Matthew 6:16-18 (NRSV)

¹⁶ “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

On Ash Wednesday many Christians wear publicly the mark of the cross on their foreheads and, during Lent, embrace disciplines of renunciation that may distinguish us from others, aim for self-improvement, or project a sense of self-righteousness. The piety to which Jesus calls us is realized, however, not in self-aggrandizement or in drawing distinctions between ourselves and others, but in the kind of righteousness that restores relationships and manifests both humility before God and solidarity with the humiliated people of this world. Such righteousness bears most truly the mark of the cross.

In January I presented a simple model for ministry and a call to action: **Connect = Serve = Invite = Give**. By putting these single words into phrases makes it clearer to see what deeper engagement with our mission looks like: **Connect = Choose a Group to be involve with / Serve = Join the Mission / Invite = Bring a Friend / Give = Give Generously of Yourself**.

Last month’s focus was on Connect. We were reminded of and introduced to the various ministries at Townley. This month the focus is on Serving. Join the Mission, volunteer with the group, make yourself available. Easier said than done? Maybe we are too set in our ways. Maybe it’s hard to see the need, more less meet the need. But ask yourself these questions: If not me, who? If not now, when? If not here, where? You are the one. The time is now. The place is here. **Serve**.

BEING NICE WON'T LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST

We all know that words, without deeds, are dead. However, deeds without words are also dead. Consider the following:

Let's say I have a neighbor, and I want to "preach Christ" to him using my deeds. I greet him over the garden fence. I invite him and his wife round for dinner, where I show them the best hospitality of which I am capable; I explain that I am a Christian but make no attempt to shove the gospel down his throat. Noticing that his garden could use a bit of work, I offer him my lawnmower, which he accepts, and eventually, through repeated usage, breaks. I do not complain or ask him to replace it; I replace it myself and continue to allow him to use it whenever he sees fit. I help whenever I can. In all things, I seek to display unconditional kindness towards him, and to love him as I love myself. Eventually, he dies.

Now what have my actions preached to him? They have preached that Christians are people who do good things for their neighbor. They have preached that niceness, and kindness, and morally upright behavior are what make you a Christian. In short, they have preached justification by works. Your works have indeed "preached" something. But it isn't the gospel.

Andrew Wilson, "The Parable of the Lawn Mower,"

2019 MARCH						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MARCH DATES

Prayer: *Every Monday 4:00-5:00 PM*

March 3

- Transfiguration Sunday, Holy Communion

March 6

- Ash Wednesday -- Bible Study 6:30 PM

March 9

- Roadhouse: 7:30 PM

March 10

- First Sunday in Lent -- Delaire Nursing Home Visitation 2:00 PM

March 11

- Operation Warm Heart 6:00 PM, St. Elizabeth

March 13

- Bible Study 6:30 PM

March 17

- Second Sunday in Lent, Book Club meets after service

March 20

- Bible Study 6:30 PM -- Session Meeting: 7:30 PM

March 24

- Third Sunday in Lent

March 25

- Operation Warm Heart 6:00 PM, St. Elizabeth

March 27

- Bible Study 6:30 PM

March 31

- Fourth Sunday in Lent

Mark your calendar!

Contact Us

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