



Firstly we have to recognise our own poverty, our own need for God, forgiveness and love. This should not turn us in ourselves but should lead us, drive us out to alleviate the poverty of others. In these times between the big things we can not do and the small things we refuse to do the danger is that we do nothing – and that danger is real. Apathy, finger-pointing and excuses for inactivity seem to be biggest plague. The Gospel today makes it clear that we are called *to notice, to respond, to act, to serve* – in essence, To Do, not do nothing.

If we do follow the words of Jesus, if we let his positive law of love reign in our actions toward the poor, we will have life as today's psalmist said. Over the next week if you can, make a conscious effort to set aside some time in prayer to examine how we, ourselves can better answer Jesus' call to recognise, respond to and to serve those in need. How can we do those little things that we can do? And can we start with ourselves?

## SOME POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. This judgment scene contains surprises for us. One is that nobody is condemned for doing wrong, but for their failure to do good. Jesus is telling us that being his disciple is a positive choice about how we live and relate to others. Perhaps sin-avoidance has sometimes dominated your view of what was being asked of you. What difference has it made for you when you viewed your Christian life as a daily opportunity to make a positive difference to others? A gift given in love, is given to be enjoyed, treasured, and used. Through fear, one servant failed to recognise the loving trust being shown to him and buried the talent. When have you found that overcoming fear helped you to make the most of opportunities in life?
2. Jesus is very clear about the criteria for knowing whether I am a sheep or a goat - how have I loved, how have I cared for other especially the poor, the needy and the marginalised? Looking back over the last day or week, recall times when I have acted as Jesus asked, and give thanks. Also recall times I have failed to act as Jesus asks, and seek forgiveness. Is there anything I can do to try make good the harm my failure may have caused?
3. Where are the hungry, the naked, the homeless who would call on me if they could reach me? Or have I so organised my life that the needy never impinge on me? Lord, you have made this the sole criterion of judgment. How will I measure up?
4. Jesus says that when we do something for another, He considers it as done to Himself. When has seeing Christ in others helped you in your dealings with them?

### Prayer -

Almighty God, you have conferred upon Christ Jesus sovereignty over every age and nation. Direct us, in the love of Christ, to care for the least of his brothers and sisters, that we may be subject to his dominion and receive the inheritance of your kingdom. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen**

### Prayer in these uncertain times

*We pray for all those in our country and throughout the world suffering from the Corona Virus. May its victims and their families be strengthened by the support of our community of faith and restored soon to full health. We also pray for our leaders and medical personnel who deal with the virus. May we keep calm and may we join together in solidarity with care and compassion to tackle this emergency. This we ask in confidence through Christ Our Lord. Amen*

