

Coach House Church

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25TH MARCH 2021

If there is a good thing that came out of the past year, it must be the fact that some people started to look around and see the needs of others and reached out a helping hand.

Throughout the last year we have seen people organise, or help out at food banks or charities that helped ordinary people with basic needs like : food , clothes, keeping the house warm and so on.

From the beginning of time, people from the same settlement, helped each other. However, it must be said that, as we grew so called "civilised", we became more and more independent, self centred, and selfish. In small and isolated communities, we can still see that interdependence among individuals, and I think everyone yearns for this type of relating to neighbours, but somehow, in the big city, we lost the ability to see people. What I mean by "see" is to look, notice and be willing to do something for someone when and if possible.

When asked by the teachers of the Jewish law what was the greatest command out of them all, Jesus told them that loving God was more important than anything else in the world, but also, that you must love your neighbour as yourself. This was an equally important command and by doing this, they would fulfil all of the law.

In the Old Testament, we have an example of giving, that in our world is unheard of.

1 Kings 17:10-12 says this :

"So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." "As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive

oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.””

The widow feeds Elijah during a famine with the very last drop of food she has left for her and her son.

When you read the end of this story, you will see that the widow and her son were provided for by God after feeding Elijah with food for the remaining of the time of the drought and famine .

In the New Testament we have another example of people sharing with others.

Acts 3:1-8

“One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.”

Peter and John had no material goods to share but that did not stop them from sharing what they had. The man they helped out could not earn a living, he had to beg from others. That was the fate of disabled people in that time.

Sometimes, people have material things but what they really need is a friend to talk to or a shoulder to cry on. Other times people just need to know that someone cares and is there for them.

One of the modern world commodities is time. Nobody has any time to spare. We often hear “time is money”. Spending time with family and friends has to be pencilled in; finding time to just be it’s effort as everybody is incredibly busy. There are many more other things that we can share with people like: cars, houses, jobs, gardens and also we choose to share our lives with partners. Each of us have qualities and gifts that we can choose to use for someone else’s benefit; some with greater benefit than others. I encourage you, take a minute and think: what do I have that I could share ? What do I have that someone else is in great need of?

A couple of weeks ago, at the prayer meeting at the Coach House, people shared good news. The Lord has answered prayers, people have been healed. We were all encouraged and full of joy. In our prayers we were thanking the Lord and we were praising Him. Then, in one of the pauses, someone started praying for the lost. For people that do not know about Jesus. Through the words used the sense of grief was almost tangible. I understood then that, that was the Lord's heart: he was grieving for all the people who are still ignorant of His existence, who struggle and toil on their own, in loneliness, illness, and darkness while we, who know and love Him, are comforted, filled with joy and healed.

The world is a dark and miserable place which in this last year has been made even worse by an unknown virus. People are living and dying without light and hope because they do not know that light and hope exists. They do not know what Jesus has done so that people may have hope and live in the light. If you know Jesus, dear brother and sister, share Him with your neighbour. Let's be more bold and Share Him More.



ALINA ADSHEAD



Coach House Church

leadership@coachhousechurch.org // 0161 432 5604

the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn