

Making a Home for the Homeless God: Living with the expectation of his return

Vineyard Church of Ann Arbor

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Understanding his coming and coming again...

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Gal 5:1)

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning — the sixth day. (Gen 1:31)

Changes our priorities: Caring for our neighbor

... ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself...’ (Luke 10:25-37)

He is not the God of the dead, but of the living. You are badly mistaken!” (Mark 12:27).

Changes our values: “And who is my neighbor?”

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the **poor**. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the **prisoners** and recovery of sight for the **blind**, to release the **oppressed**, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)

Changes our hope: There’s hope in his second coming because he promises us that we will be like him. Transformed, changed, renewed.

The question before us is: will we take up with the Priest and Levite and seeing the condition of this fallen, wounded, and despairing world walk past on the other side? Believing that this fallen, wounded, and despairing world doesn’t matter because we’re going to leave it fairly soon for heaven. Or do we see the hope in the resurrected Son of God, come to inaugurate God’s kingdom, come to usher in a new age: the new creation. And do we say instead, that our God has come with healing and hope, has picked up the battered and dying world, and has bound up its wounds and set it on the road to full health? (Isa 35)

Changes our living: Our call isn't to save ourselves from the world; it's to be a light of hope to the world, to bring about salvation for those of us despairing within it.

Imagine, being a people so moved by the example of our leader that we have set about changing the world, one person at a time, one loving act, one redeeming act, one selfless act at a time, introducing people to the kingdom, the kingdom of the coming King. What an image of a redeemed and transformed world that would be. Are you willing to make room for the homeless God, remembering that whenever and wherever he goes he transforms?