

Love the Outcasts (Revd Rhys Locke)

Jesus calls us to “Loving the outcasts.”

Luke 14:13

“But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind...”

Loving the homeless, the poor, the needy and deprived.

Loving the unbeliever, the doubter, the seeker, the unloved...

And why? Well, because this is what Jesus did... and why did he do it...? So that everyone would come to Believe and receive eternal life which is the free gift of God in the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ.

This is why he loved all and this is why he calls us all to the same love he showed: so that those who were previously unloved would find love like no other in Him and in finding it in Jesus- find God.

There is a message here for us all that should remind us of the importance of OUTREACH in our local communities where our gathered churches are located today.

What do you do to reach out?

How to you reach outside the chapel door?

If the answer to this question is that you do nothing to reach out, then you need to get your thinking caps on and plan for some events... Start thinking about the possibilities and what your community needs more than anything?

If your answer is... that you do plenty to reach out... ask the question if these things are working and if they are bearing fruit for the Church or not?

Ask the question "What can we do in order to make things even more fruitful....?"

Over the years our churches in the valleys have failed in reaching out. The same members gathering for 20 years seems fine...until, naturally, they fade away with one in their place. So, what can we do to act now in order to prevent this happening?

Well, we need a spirit of real motivation for Christ in our churches.

If we have the resources- call a Minister.

If we have the resources- plan for community outreach.

If we have the resources- develop a Bible Study or Prayer group.

If we have the resources- develop an online community.

The truth is... we do have the resources but we lack in zeal and motivation. Let us not! Instead, let us follow in the words of Jesus who said yesterday:

Matthew 6:21 1

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Today may our treasure be in the work of Jesus and may we work together in our local gathered churches to advance his Cause- reaching out to EVERYONE so that they might find Jesus and receive the free gift of God which is eternal life.

What can you do to play your part in reaching out? The truth is, you can do SO much.

May Christ help us in our efforts for his

Kingdom,

Amen