

Values Matter

I am sure you like me have worked under daylight in a room and not appreciated how dark the room has become over time, when you suddenly realise you need to switch the light on. In the same way we can de-sensitised by gradual and constant slow erosion of the biblical values God intended for our common good. We need to switch the light on.

Whether it's the rise of the Hard Right or the constant stream of false teachings the Christian community is been bombarded with, there is as in previous generations the need to re-focus on sound biblical teaching which is an important part of our work.

As we move forward and consider change – and change is a constant and necessary part of life – biblical values can help shape good change, whether this is in our work together or action in our wider communities. To give you an example, the national foodbank initiative began not a mile from this building in our diocese in response to food poverty.

So I have given you some of my favourite biblical verses so we can just spend some time to reflect on how they speak to us now in our context, in our time, in our shared work together, and maybe what corrections or course adjustments we need to make in our daily lives and attitudes.

It's so easy, isn't it? To just to be driving along thinking we know the way, when we finally realise – or admit to ourselves –

We must consult with the map!

To accompany our thoughts, there is music here:

<https://youtu.be/slwkPTq7Ey4>

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

**[8] He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.**

John 13:34 (NIV)

**[34] “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you,
so you must love one another. [35] By this all men will know that you
are my disciples, if you love one another.”**

John 3:16 (NIV)

**[16] “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that
whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

Matthew 25:35 (MSG)

**[35] And here's why: I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
[36] I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.'**

**[37] “Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking
about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give
you a drink? [38] [39] And when did we ever see you sick or in prison
and come to you?’ [40] Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn
truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or
ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’**

Philippians 2:5-7(NIV)

[5] Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: [6] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, [7] but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Matthew 5:13 (NIV)

[13] “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

Matthew 5:3-10 (NIV)

[3] “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[4] Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

[5] Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

[6] Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

[7] Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

[8] Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

[9] Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

[10] Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:13 (NIV)

[13] “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

[14] “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Galatians 5:22 (NIV)

[22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Matthew 5:43-45 (NIV)

Love for Enemies

[43] “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ [44] But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Proverbs 14:31 (NIV)

[31] He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God.

Leviticus 19:34 (NIV)

[34] The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

[5] Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

[6] in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

[8] For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— [9] not by works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.