

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Helping the Most Vulnerable

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
February 26, 2023



- God has a heart for the most vulnerable.

Deuteronomy 10:18-20 (NLT) [God] ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to the foreigners living among you & gives them food and clothing. ¹⁹ So you, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. ²⁰ You must fear the Lord your God & worship him and cling to him. Your oaths must be in his name alone.

Exodus 19:6 (NLT) “You will be a kingdom of priests, my holy nation”

Why does God have a heart for the most vulnerable?

- Because.... God identifies with the most vulnerable.

Psalms 68:4-5 (NLT) “Sing praises to God and to his name! Sing loud praises to him who rides the clouds. His name is the Lord— rejoice in his presence! ⁵ Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy.”

“God may well be with us in our mansions on the hill. I hope so... But the one thing we can all agree is that God is with the vulnerable and poor. God is in the slums, in the cardboard boxes where the poor play house. God is in the silence of a mother who has infected her child with a virus that will end both their lives. God is in the cries heard under the rubble of war. God is in the debris of wasted opportunity and lives, and God is with us if we are with them.” Bono (Lead Singer of U2)

Proverbs 14:21 (NLT) “Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker but helping the poor honours him.”

- Jesus made time for the most vulnerable and He loved them.

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NLT) “You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.”

- Jesus became vulnerable so we can love & serve the most vulnerable.

Big Idea: Reflect God by showing love to the most vulnerable.

James 2:14-17 (NLT) “What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? ¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶ and you say, ‘Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well’—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? ¹⁷ So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”

1 John 3:16-18 (NLT) “We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let’s not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.”

Action Steps:

- 1) Recognize that you are spiritually needy and vulnerable today.
- 2) Partner with like-minded ministries to care for the most vulnerable.

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Helping the Most Vulnerable
#3 of 4 - February 26, 2023

- 1) Last week we talked about “The Power of Comfort” focusing on the ministry of Safe Families. What did you hear or sense God saying to you this week as it relates to helping families in need? What action steps did you take to prioritize this?
- 2) In what ways have you seen or experienced extreme poverty? Share your experience with your Impact Community.
- 3) Read Deuteronomy 10:18-20, James 2:14-17, & 1 John 3:16-18. What is the **Context** for these passages? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What’s the theme of this chapter, or passage? What’s the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about these passages? What do we learn about God from these passages? What call to action is given for those who choose to follow God?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does it mean for us as we seek to be disciples of Christ who care for the most vulnerable?
- 6) Read 2 Corinthians 2:8-9. What does this reveal about our spiritual need? How has Jesus changed our reality? How does this truth about Jesus inspire and empower us to love the most vulnerable?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What specific action step is God asking you & your IC to take in light of this teaching?



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