



• ADVENT 2025 •

# THIS

changes

# EVERYTHING



# The incarnation radically changes our view of others:

1. From expecting others to serve me,  
to eagerly serving others
2. From prioritizing the powerful,  
to prioritizing the powerless
3. From loving those like me,  
to loving those unlike me

# From Expecting Others to Serve Me, To Eagerly Serving Others

Our culture tells us to view people as either obstacles or assets:

- Cut toxic people out of your life.
- If they don't elevate you, eliminate them.
- Surround yourself only with people who add value.
- If they're not helping you grow, they're holding you back.
- You don't owe anyone anything.
- Never settle for people who don't fit your vibe.

## From Expecting Others to Serve Me, To Eagerly Serving Others

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but *in humility count others more significant than yourselves*. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:4-8 (ESV)

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# From Expecting Others to Serve Me, To Eagerly Serving Others

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...

Philippians 2:5



# From Expecting Others to Serve Me, To Eagerly Serving Others

## Ways to Serve Others

Mercy Ministry	Word Ministry
Providing for people's most basic and immediate felt needs—food, shelter, comforting presence	Providing for people's greatest spiritual need by sharing the good news of Jesus.



# From Prioritizing the Powerful to Prioritizing the Powerless

Our culture teaches us to value the rich, successful,  
and popular.



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# From Prioritizing the Powerful to Prioritizing the Powerless

## Jesus Became Poor

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became  
poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9



# From Prioritizing the Powerful to Prioritizing the Powerless

## Jesus Became Poor

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord... and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

Luke 2:22, 24



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# From Prioritizing the Powerful to Prioritizing the Powerless

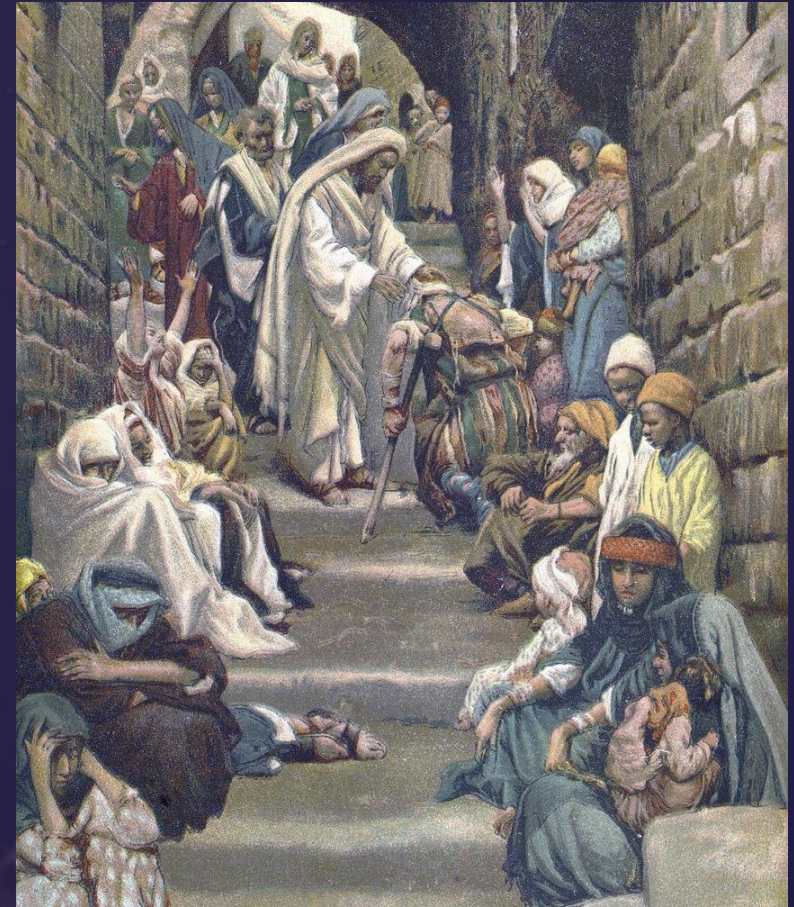
## Jesus Prioritized the Powerless

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me to proclaim  
good news to the poor...

Luke 4:18

Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is  
the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who  
are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

Luke 6:20-21



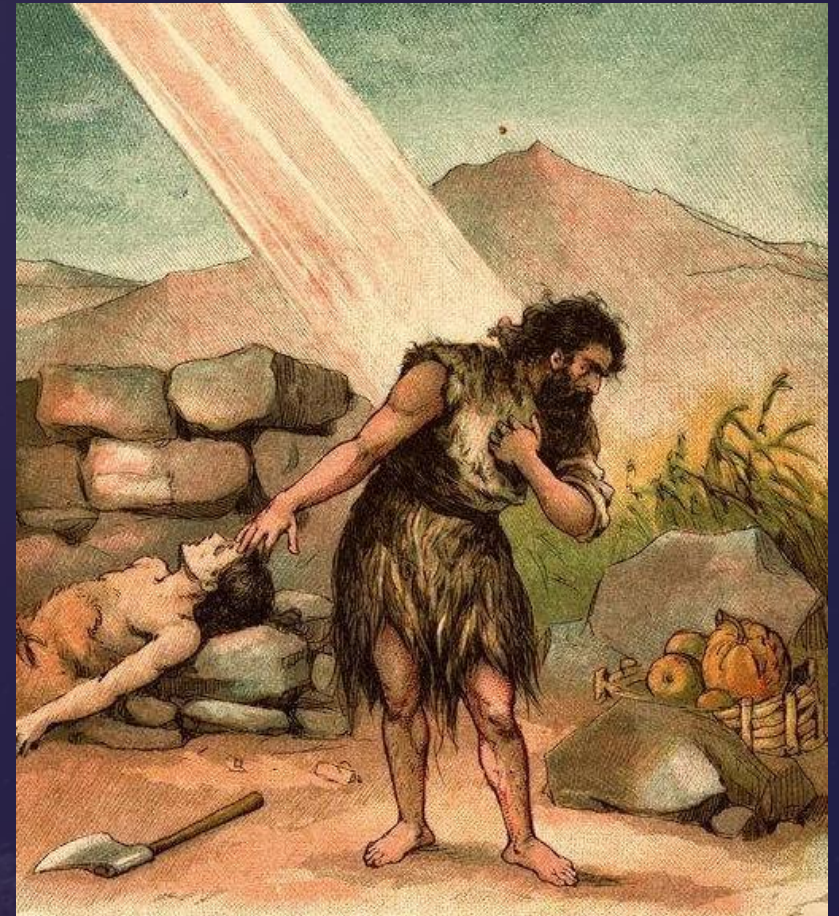
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# From Prioritizing the Powerful to Prioritizing the Powerless

Cain defends himself to God:  
“Am I my brother’s keeper?”

The implied answer is:  
YES!



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# From Prioritizing the Powerful to Prioritizing the Powerless



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# From Prioritizing the Powerful to Prioritizing the Powerless

*“Mankind was my business!*  
The common welfare was my  
business; charity, mercy,  
forbearance, and benevolence  
were, all, my business...”

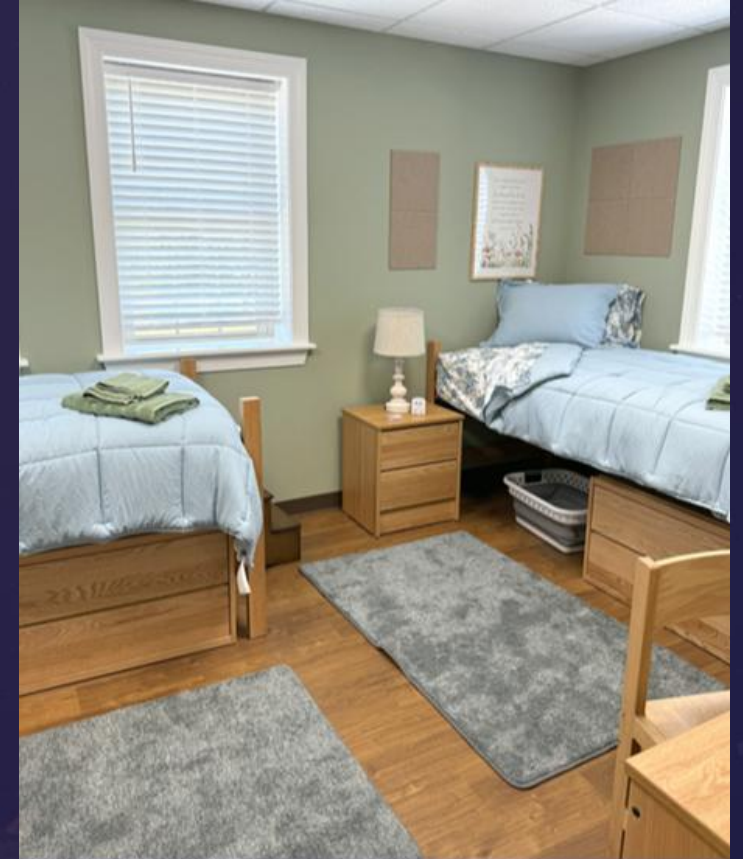


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# From Prioritizing the Powerful to Prioritizing the Powerless

**PCC Christmas Gift - \$20,000**

Sponsoring a Room at the Peninsula  
Rescue Mission Women's Home

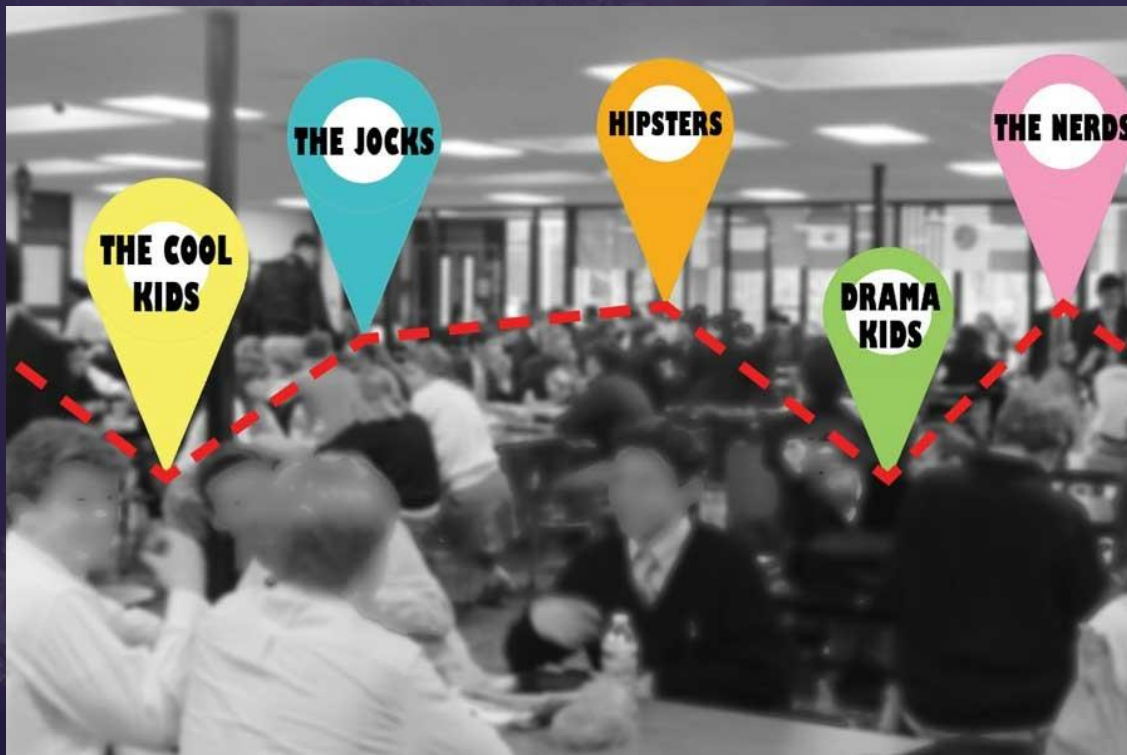


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# From Loving People Like Us to Loving People Unlike Us

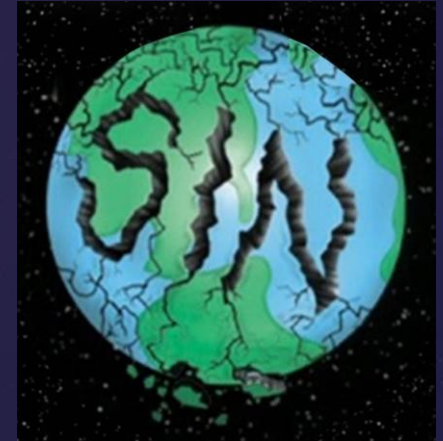
We gravitate and tend to prefer and favor those who are like us.



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# From Loving People Like Us to Loving People Unlike Us

Jesus came to people very unlike him.



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# From Loving People Like Us to Loving People Unlike Us

Jesus was a refugee in a foreign land.

...an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt..." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod.

Matthew 2:13-15a



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# From Loving People Like Us to Loving People Unlike Us

Jesus demonstrated care for foreigners.



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# From Loving People Like Us to Loving People Unlike Us

Jesus demonstrated care for foreigners.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and *in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.*

Romans 15:8-9a

# From Loving People Like Us to Loving People Unlike Us

Jesus demonstrated care for foreigners.

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and *make disciples of all nations (panta ta ethne)*, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20



# From Loving People Like Us to Loving People Unlike Us

You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him,  
for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 22:21

You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you  
as the native among you, and you shall love him as  
yourself, for you were strangers in the land of  
Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 19:34

You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner...

Deuteronomy 24:17



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# From Loving People Like Us to Loving People Unlike Us

What can we do?

- We can grieve & lament the refugee crisis
- We can pray for refugees
- We can advocate for just and compassionate immigration policy
- We can lovingly serve local refugees
- We can treat people from all nations with dignity and seek to appreciate their culture



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