

December 5th

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25: 35)

Hospitality. Genuine kindness. Offering help to someone without asking for or expecting anything in return. These are things we all strive for, but inherently we often times fall short. Yet they are exactly what are required of us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, as described in Matthew 25: 31-46. We are to treat others in need (strangers and friends alike) as we would treat Jesus in that same situation. If you saw Christ shivering on the side of the road in tattered clothing, with a sign that read “Hungry. Anything helps. God Bless,” would you turn and look the other way? As Christians, we should not only serve because it is our duty, but because we *want* to. With the love of God in our hearts, we should want to show Christ to everyone we meet. We should constantly be working to love our neighbors, whoever they might be.

I invite you to challenge yourself by reflecting on the last time you did something that was truly selfless. Once you have that memory—examine it. Think of what you did, why you did it, what the results were and how it made you feel. Even though the act that you are reflecting on was a selfless one, I’ll venture to guess that just thinking about it makes you feel pretty good. That is because by being selfless, you were sharing God’s love—and that’s the best feeling there is. This Christmas, and all year long, remember that real love, love that comes from God, really is the gift that keeps on giving. Experience it and share it as often as you can, and you will surely spread the joy of Christ to everyone you meet.