

The Mark Jesus Set

A classic scripture passage providing instructions for Christians on how to minister to people with basic human needs is Matthew 25:35-40. In the month of May 2008, do we measure up? Are we missing the mark Christ set for us?

In March, Lola and I attended a banquet sponsored by Southern Adventist University for students in its long-term care administration program and its sponsors. The featured speaker was Terrie E. Long, social work field director and associate professor of the university. Her remarks were inspirational – and challenging. In her speech, she used an article from *The Churchman*, Diocese of Dallas, and quoted in *You Are Never Alone* by Charles Allen (published by Fleming H. Revell Company). It is cause for serious introspection. Here it is:

**I was hungry
and you formed a humanities club
and you discussed my hunger.
Thank you.**

**I was imprisoned
and you crept off quietly
to your chapel in the cellar
and prayed for my release.**

**I was naked
and in your mind
you debated the morality of my appearance.**

**I was sick
and you knelt and thanked God
for your health.**

**I was homeless
and you preached to me
of the spiritual shelter of the love of God.**

**I was lonely
and you left me alone to pray for me.**

You seem so holy, so close to God. But I'm still very hungry and lonely and cold.

So where have your prayers gone? What have they done?

(more)

What does it profit a man to page through his book of prayers when the rest of the world is crying for help?

These are questions for me to answer. I'm proud to say, however, that I find men and women in our centers who pray about the needs of those they serve.

And then go do something about it.

--Beecher Hunter