



# Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

## Wednesday Prayer – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

### **What Reward do we Expect?**

**If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. Luke 6:32-35, 38**

Most of us are familiar with this text or at least the part of the text that says “love your enemies” and “do unto others as you want done unto you”. However, the text teaches you about loving those who don’t love you and giving to those who are not your family or friends. Sometimes we are more comfortable providing support to someone we know but this passage asks what credit is that to us to give only to who we’re comfortable with?

In a previous job, I worked with a lot of volunteers who gave genuinely and were very generous to the youth that were in the programs. I even encountered some who did it anonymously. But I would sometimes receive a call or get a volunteer who was only interested in serving to show others that they were a do-gooder. Wanting to be rewarded for something that God has asked to do without gaining anything. They would want to know more details about the youth in order to justify the gift they were going to give. If the story was not sad enough they would make up their own stories. I found myself explaining that youth were not bad kids and the parents weren’t bad. I would question myself about the intentions of others but then began to find myself praying for open minds, non-judgement, understanding and kind spirits. I took situations like those as a learning experience for me and a chance to educate the volunteer. We can shift the minds and hearts of others through our education.

**God thank you for your mercy and your grace. Thank you for teaching us how to love all God’s children and teaching us the reward is you. God pray for those who are having a hard time forgiving those who have hurt them. I also pray that this world would learn to love the way that you love Lord. God we need you right now more than ever, please watch over our children and keep them safe. Amen.**

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Written by Monica Jones, Cherish All Children Youth Prevention Coordinator, and also a Senior Community Health Worker for Hennepin County, MN.