

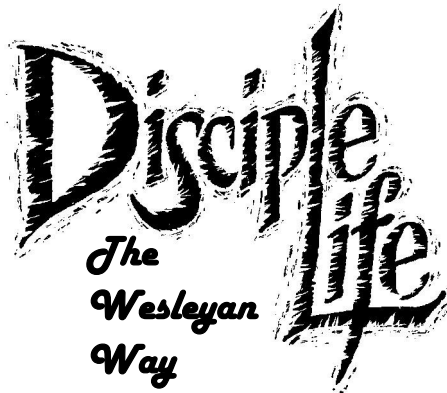
This week, I continue looking at what are traditionally called Corporal Acts of Mercy found primarily in Matthew 25:31-46. This week, I want us to focus on the words: “give shelter to the homeless.”

I know that for me, the idea of being homeless is an abstract concept. I have always had a roof over my head and a bed on which to lay my head. Unfortunately, this is not always the case for some people.

I have lived in urban areas where homelessness is quite evident, but, by and large, most of my ministry has been in more rural, small town settings. In these settings, homelessness is present, but it is not as evident. We don’t see men, women and children sleeping on sidewalks. However, that does not mean that there are not men, women and children in the community around us that are in less than desirable living conditions. They may have a roof over their heads, but they may not have access to adequate water, electricity, and other common utilities that most of us take for granted.

Children come to school dirty and with dirty clothes. Their parents don’t have washers and driers and may not have the shower and bathing facilities that most all of us have.

In the winter, some struggle with keeping their homes warm. Most of us just turn the thermostat to the desired setting and not think anything else about it.



Week # 11



Start the
Conversation:
Provoke One
Another in Love

PROVOKING QUESTION:

This week, you are encouraged to ask a church member the following:

Do you know of someone living in less that desirable conditions? Is there anything you can do to help them?

Homelessness, it does exist, but maybe in a different form than we would suspect.

This week, you might want to consider the following things:

- Consider donating money to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity that help to provide homes for people.
- Take the time to do some research and learn about the homeless situation in our community and county.

In case you are not yet aware, our church is helping a young girl that is coming out of a foster care situation to establish a home. With the help of many of you, we are getting a bed, bedding, housewares and other items needed to set this young woman up with the things that make a home so that she can pursue college.

So. We are helping. Perhaps the question we need to ask is, “Are we doing enough?”

Carry the cross  **and follow me.**
Luke 14:27, NRSV