



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

Being a F.A.N. for Jesus Matthew 25: 31-46

F.A.N. Finding A Need * Fulfilling A Need

"And let our people also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, that they may not be unfruitful." Titus 3:14

WHAT IS A F.A.N. A F.A.N. is a believer committed to intentionally discovering needs (Finding A Need) in the lives of others and meeting those needs (Fulfilling A Need) on a daily basis. Every believer is a F.A.N.

Matthew 25:31-46 31 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 "And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something to eat*; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; 36 naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? 38 'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 39 'And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them, you did it to Me.*' 41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me *nothing to eat*; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *nothing to drink*; 43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' 44 "Then they themselves also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' 45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' 46 "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Being a F.A.N. Has Present Significance

35 *'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;*

Fulfilling needs in the lives of others brings joy and encouragement to the one receiving.

Fulfilling needs in the lives of others brings a joy and fulfillment to the one giving for they are fulfilling the purpose to which they were called... **to honor Christ through loving others as He did.**

Being a F.A.N. Has Eternal Significance

32 *"...and He will separate them..."* 33 *and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.* 41 *"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;*

As a result of receiving the Gospel message, the righteous (sheep) will seek to meet needs in the lives of others in response to and as a result of that message. The lack of such deeds in one's life is an indication of one's unrighteousness (goats) and a further indication of one's eternal destiny.

Being a F.A.N. has a Spiritual Significance

40 *"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'*

Jesus Christ so identified himself with the needy and suffering of the world and His message and mission was so bound up in the meeting of their needs, that to meet those needs as did Christ and for His sake is as if your were ministering to Christ Himself as your act of service and worship to Him personally.

Thus, meeting the needs of others is a great indication of our love for Christ, our likeness to Him, and our fulfillment of the mission to which He has called us... to reach the nations with the Gospel.

Challenge

Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that we are saved by Grace through Faith in Christ, and not by our works. But it further states that we are created for good works. *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

Thus, works that meet the needs of others are a natural outflow of salvation and a heart that has been claimed by Christ and fulfill the purpose for which we were prepared, "beforehand".

Meeting needs not only brings blessing to those served, it prepares their heart to understand and receive the gospel of Jesus Christ as they witness firsthand the demonstration of Christ's love through you.

Find your purpose and fulfillment in life, be a blessing to others and worship and honor your Lord by becoming a F.A.N. in the name of Jesus.

Finding A Need * Fulfilling A Need.