CALLED TO CARE PART 5
"SERVING THE NEEDY"
SPEAKER: SENIOR PASTOR DAN CARROLL
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INTRODUCTION

- Those in need have a special place in the heart of a compassionate and loving Father.
- That special place is tied to our lives.
- Matthew 25:32-36, "…'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. 36I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'"

I. TWO SIDES TO FAITH

- Being and doing.
- Worship and serving.
- Loving God and serving people.
- Mark 12:29-31, Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: '…you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' 31The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"
- Some of us believe we can live with one, and that is why we never grow up in our faith.
- Deuteronomy 15:1-11, "…share your resources freely with the poor and with other Israelites in need."
- These were laws for Israel, but they are principles of life for us.
- If we are going to grow it has to be through prayer and worship, time alone in the Word.
- And serving others, loving others, giving to others.
- James 2:14-17 - Explains it in very practical and purposeful terms.
- "…Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all—it is dead and useless."

II. A PROMISE OF BLESSING

- 35 years ago when WOL started, one of our core values the Lord spoke to me about was the poor.
- Do you want to know why we are in this great facility?
- Because we care for the poor.
- Is this an accident? No, it is a promise.
- Deuteronomy 15:10, "Give freely without begrudging it, and the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do."

III. HEALING AND LIFE HAPPEN WHEN WE GIVE AND SERVE

- Ezekiel 16:49-50 NLT, "Sodom's sins were pride, laziness, and gluttony, while the poor and needy suffered outside…"
- Isaiah 58:6-11, "Is this not the fast which I choose…'Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house…"

IV. BREAKING OUR FATHER'S HEART

- Three types of poverty are described by Amos 2:6-7.
  - The *ebyon* = "needy" those who are destitute and beg.
  - The *dallim* – "helpless" are totally dependent.
  - The *anawim* = "humble" oppressed who know their place in society to be at the bottom rung on the ladder.
- God told Israel that they had a responsibility to care for these.
- Jesus served out of the same heart in Luke 4 when He first began His ministry in the New Testament.
- Isaiah 61- Luke indicates that Jesus' relationship to the poor and hurting will be one of His most significant ministries.
- It is with them that we gain the heart of God.
- It is with them that the Holy Spirit softens us and imparts the Father's heart to us.
- The principle is, we get so we can give, which we believe is a part of God's heart for all people.
- 1 John 3:17, "But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother (or sister) in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?"
- Matthew 25:31-40, "…40"…'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.'"