

THIS HOPE

Michael Messenger, World Vision: Seeing Jesus in the Poor

APPETIZER: “I see you”

A greeting from Zimbabwe:

SALIBONANI (means “I see you”)

SIKHONA (means “I am here to be seen”)

Thank you, Meeting House family, for an amazing six-year partnership on behalf of the children and families in Mposa and Chamba, Malawi:

- 2,000+ children sponsored
- 8,500 women trained in child health and nutrition
- 5,600 people have clean water for the first time
- Dozens of classrooms equipped and primary teachers trained
- 79 community savings groups established
- New microfinance program to break the poverty cycle

DINE IN: Seeing the poor like God does

God cares deeply for the poor

- God values the vulnerable and is a champion for the downtrodden and oppressed (**1 Sam. 2:8, Psalm 9:9**)
- God instructs his followers to care for the poor (**1 Tim. 6:18**)
- God challenges us to speak up for those who are struggling (**Prov. 31:8-9**)
- God is watching our actions toward those in need (**Prov. 28:27**)

Seeing through the eyes of Jesus

- Jesus came to us as a poor child—an oppressed refugee
- Jesus spent his time on the margins, reaching the vulnerable
- Jesus is clear when he says that His followers are to care for the needy and identify with the poor

Seeing Jesus in the poor

Then the people will ask, “Lord, when did we fail to help you when you were hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in jail? And the King will answer, “I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.”

Matthew 25:44-45

Isaiah 65:17-25

God’s vision for his world and his people

TAKE OUT: Inviting God to open our eyes

Jesus calls us to see him in the “least of these”—and to help live out the values of his vision for the world

- **Invite God to open our eyes** and “invade” our stories, so we can identify where God is changing our perspective.
- **Celebrate the relationships** we’ve built between The Meeting House and children in Malawi which are changing lives for good. Connect with your sponsored child, or consider sponsoring a new boy or girl in Mposa or Chamba.
- **Pray as we seek to follow Jesus to the margins** and deepen our partnership. Pray that the support for Raw Hope will help us connect with the world’s most vulnerable children in the world’s toughest places, all in Jesus’ name.

NEXT WEEK: Home Brewed with Kate Brown

Oakville Community Connections Pastor Kate Brown will be sharing with us on living in the fullness of God’s love and grace.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Greet each other with *Salibonani* (“I see you”). How does that make you feel? What would it mean to greet each other this way everyday?
2. Review Sunday’s message. What most encouraged you? What most challenged you?
3. What do you think it means to “see the poor through God’s eyes?”

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

4. God talks about the poor in more than 2,000 verses in the Bible. In the *Dine In* section of the notes are some verses on how God cares for the poor. Read the verses as a group and discuss how you think God wants us to view people who are poor.
5. Read **Isaiah 65:17-25**
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. What are the elements of this “new heaven and new earth”?
 - c. What are the contrasts between the world we live in today and God’s plan for the Kingdom? What excites you about this picture of a restored world?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

6. Share with your huddle a time where God “invaded” or changed your story, so that your perspective on life changed.
7. Where do you think you may have blinders on as you think about people who struggle with poverty? What do you think God may be prompting you to do, or change, or focus on?
8. Pray together that God will help you see the world and his people like he does, and for our church as we step out in faith to reach “the least of these.”

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Quotes

Today we are joined by Michael Messenger, the President of World Vision Canada, who is going to share about how God sees the people who are burdened by poverty and oppression, and how we can invite Jesus to change our perspective on poverty and those affected by it. We are also celebrating the compassion partnership between The Meeting House family and World Vision.

God is in the slums, in the cardboard boxes where the poor play house. God is in the silence of a mother who has infected her child with a virus that will end both their lives. God is in the cries heard under the rubble of war. God is in the debris of wasted opportunity and lives, and God is with us if we are with them.

~ Bono

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

~ Saint Theresa of Avila

We read the Gospel as if we had no money, and we spend our money as if we know nothing of the Gospel.
~ Fr. John Haughey

God never asks us to give what we do not have . . . But he cannot use what we will not give.

~ Rich Stearns

God did not mess up and make too many people and not enough stuff. Poverty was not created by God but by you and me, because we have not learned to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

~ Shane Claiborne

Let my heart be broken by the things that break the heart of God.

~ Bob Pierce, Founder of World Vision

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

~ Jesus