



if the disciples went out and acted just like Jesus, and Jesus was the image of God, then people were acting like God.

So it works like one of those infinity mirrors. If I welcome you who act like Jesus, then I welcome Jesus as well. Because I welcome Jesus, I welcome God as well.

I've been trying to make this complex and difficult all week. I have been trying to find something that is "sermon worthy" but it has eluded me. Then I realized that there is a simplicity here that is not only refreshing, but it takes on profound truth for our living and for those who live near us.

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The first truth is important to ourselves.

This week I stopped to take a look at the new Ark building. Ed Greer was there and had showed me around inside. Ed has been putting in many hours putting in the walls that shape this place that will provide hospitality for people who are served by the thrift store and food pantry. I see in Ed the Jesus that goes to prepare a place for us. Because i see this in Ed, I have seen Jesus.

I want to get your help here because I know you have seen this truth in action. Turn to someone near you and tell them about someone you have seen who has exhibited an attribute of Jesus...

Late in his life, Albert Einstein removed two framed portraits of the great scientists Newton and Maxwell from the wall of his study. He hung in their place portraits of Gandi and Schweitzer. When asked why, Einstein explained that he had reached the place in his life where he was no longer driven by the quest for knowledge or success. Instead, he longed for role models for servanthood.

When we welcome those who image Jesus for us, we are in the presence of the living God.

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The second truth is important to those who are around us.

We understand what Ambassadors are for a nation. Whoever welcomes an ambassador is welcoming the president of the nation whom the ambassador represents. The disciples were ambassadors for Christ and whoever welcomed them into their homes were accepting Christ into their homes.

As modern day disciples, we are in contact with many people who may know that we are Christians. It is important for us to be aware that we are ambassadors of Christ even

when we are not aware of it. This makes it important for us to keep our eyes on Jesus so that we become better images of him.

There have been a number of times in the Wednesday Bible study when our conversation has turned to discussion of the salvation of those who have not "accepted Christ" by a Christian profession of faith. While we generally feel that it is important to acknowledge our faith in Christ, we also have known good, non-professing people who we feel that God would welcome into the kingdom.

This passage suggests that if people accept and welcome us, then they are accepting and welcoming the Christ that lives within us. There is a saying that 'our life may be the only Bible some people may ever see.' We may be the only Jesus some people may see. Will they see Jesus in us? Will they find the redeeming grace of God by the image we live?

Jesus said, "and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward." That is the way it is for Christians. When we allow ourselves to live like Jesus - disciples - mirror images, we become the redemptive image of God for those we care for.