

“Everyone Has a Story”

February 2017

Hymn VU 356 Seek first the Kingdom

Scripture: Deuteronomy 15:11 and Mark 14:7

Reflection:

Often I see lineups, perhaps twenty people or more, some with children, most smoking, waiting for the food bank door to open on Sherbrooke Street. Some get out of cars, others are pushing pilfered shopping carts. The dress code is obviously very casual. When writing this kind of reflection I think honesty is a must, so just a store and a parking lot away is the LCBO. That's why I am on this street at this particular location. Often one from the line leaves to trades places with a buddy holding up the sign and cup at the LCBO just down the street. So I wonder, who are these people; each must have a story, probably a sad one. Are they really deserving, do they want to do better, just down on their luck, or riding the system like one family I know? Don't know about you but as I leave with my bottle of wine and drive by the lineup sometimes I get pretty cynical.

Discussion:

What is our role as Christians, as human beings? Do we owe these people anything? Should we work hard and donate food so they can smoke and get free food? Recall the proverb, give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, teach him, to fish.....and you know the rest. What is our obligation, should we do?

Hymn VU 361 Small Things Count

Prayer, God, we are so blessed. We have warm shelter, food, family, friends and just about anything we want in life, and yet sometimes we grumble when the electricity goes out for a few minutes, or the traffic holds us up for an extra five minutes, or the store is sold out of our favourite snack, and we don't even have to wait in line, in the cold, in the rain just to get food. Thank you God and may or plenty make us aware of those standing in line. Amen