

12.12.10

Walking Dusty...

teacher: SNOW ☺

Our last night serving the homeless at Share the Warmth ended with a horrible snow storm. The wind and snow were so blinding that I could barely see across my driveway . . . and then my thoughts turned to the people at the shelter that I had met this past week. What would they do to keep warm until the doors opened later tonight?

We were given an incredible opportunity during the past week. Instead of seeing homelessness as a statistic, we were able to etch names and faces into our brain. We heard stories about complicated choices and complex circumstances. Faces and hands were weathered and worn. The people we met were once someone's newborn baby. Some were married and have children. Each depends on the generosity of others to get a warm meal and a clean cot at night. I hope we didn't miss the opportunity to see God in this. Each man and woman is made in His image – we are all human.

While You Were Sleeping by Casting Crowns

Oh little town of Bethlehem
Looks like another silent night
Above your deep and dreamless sleep
A giant star lights up the sky
And while you're lying in the dark
There shines an everlasting light
For the King has left His throne
And is sleeping in a manger tonight, tonight

Oh Bethlehem, what you have missed while you were sleeping
For God became a man
And stepped into your world today
Oh Bethlehem, you will go down in history
As a city with no room for its King
While you were sleeping
While you were sleeping

Oh little town of Jerusalem, looks like another silent night
The Father gave His only Son
The Way, the Truth, the Life had come
But there was no room for Him in the world He came to save

Jerusalem, what you have missed while you were sleeping
The Savior of the world is dying on your cross today

Jerusalem, you will go down in history
As a city with no room for its King
While you were sleeping
While you were sleeping

United States of America
Looks like another silent night
As we're sung to sleep by philosophies
That save the trees and kill the children
And while we're lying in the dark
There's a shout heard 'cross the eastern sky
For the Bridegroom has returned
And has carried His bride away in the night

America, what will we miss while we are sleeping
Will Jesus come again
And leave us slumbering where we lay
America, will we go down in history
As a nation with no room for its King
Will we be sleeping
Will we be sleeping

United States of America
Looks like another silent night

(This music video can be seen here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7rqhG2yT-58>)

Questions to Consider:

Do I love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength? What (or who) would others say I love?

Did I miss an opportunity to bless someone this week? Do I need to confess this to God?

Am I asking God to help me see what He sees? Do I have the heart to get uncomfortable in order to love someone?

Who or what is taking time away from where God wants me to serve?

As I prepare for 1Mosaic's 3rd:culture this Sunday, am I open to how God might move me to give my time or money?

What will I do if I see someone from the shelter this week?

Am I sleeping? Do I see the pain in the world? Am I so consumed with my own comforts and pleasures that I don't see anyone else's needs?

This week's memory verse: "Make sure you don't take things for granted and go slack in working for the common good; share what you have with others. God takes particular pleasure in acts of worship – a different kind of "sacrifice" – that take place in kitchen and workplace and on the streets."
(Hebrews 13:15-16, THE MESSAGE)

REMINDERS:

December 19 – **3rd:culture** night! Bring all "blessings" from the needs board and web to SHU by 6pm. We will gather for a bit and then leave from there to deliver the surprises to the families. More info on the WEB!

December 24 – Christmas Eve Gathering at SHU at 6 pm! Bring some family or friends.

December 26 – No Gathering; enjoy time with your family being the church!

January 2, 2011 – The Gathering at SHU at 6 pm! Let's talk about our VISION for this year.