

Well Said....

Jesus received us as though we are somebody. This can inspire us to receive others as somebodies....God's way--for himself, for his Son, for his Spirit, for his disciples--is *down*. Down is the way up. This sets the whole world's way of thinking on its head, and only believers, against the almost irresistible tug of the world, will believe that Jesus is telling the truth about the best way to live.

--Frederick Dale Bruner, from his commentary on Matthew

Sit with me and tell me once again

Of the story that's been told us,

Of the power that will hold us,

Of the beauty, of the beauty,

Why it matters...

Like the statue in the park

Of this war-torn town,

And its protest of the darkness

And the chaos all around--

With its beauty, how it matters,

How it matters...

--Sara Groves, from her song "*Why it Matters*"

Christians should place a high value on all human work (especially excellent work), done by all people, as a channel of God's love for his world. They will be able to appreciate and rejoice in their own work, whether it is prestigious or not, as well as in the skillful work of all other people, whether they believe or not...this biblical conception of work—as a vehicle for God's loving provision for the world—is essential.

--Timothy Keller, from *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work*

O Lord, open our eyes, that we may see the needs of others.

Open our ears, that we may hear their cries.

Open our hearts, that they need not be without help.

Let us not be afraid to defend the weak because of the anger of the strong,
nor afraid to defend the poor because of the anger of the rich.

Show us where love and hope are needed,

And use us to bring them to those places.

Open our eyes and ears, that this day we may do some work of peace for You.

--Alan Paton