



A Call to Action

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“What we do matters to God.” I wrote down her words. I wanted to keep them handy. Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, spoke to a group at Immanuel Presbyterian Church this past Thursday. They are exploring what it might mean to be become a Matthew 25 congregation, and Dr. Moffett was the perfect person to ignite that discernment.

Couching this specific remark on Micah 6:8, she distinguished justice work from other demonstrations of faith, such as burnt offerings...however that might be replicated these days. Instead, Dr. Moffett emphasized action as what matters. “What we *do* matters to God.”

I’ve been thinking about hypocrisy a lot lately. We’re attuned to sniff out hypocrites – those who say one thing but do another or do nothing. We’re giddy when we capture on video people acting inconsistently with what they’ve been touting. Jesus himself didn’t hesitate to call out people for their hypocrisy, so it’s an appropriate point for self-reflection. Does what we do match what we say?

We can say that poverty should be eliminated or alleviated, but what do we do to make that happen? How are we actively breaking down systems that perpetuate cycles of poverty?

We can trumpet that racism should be eradicated, but what are we doing to break down structural barriers to racial equity?

I say these things and believe them, but Dr. Moffett’s words challenge me to assess what I’m actually *doing*. Yes, even in COVID-19 times, could I be doing more? Do my words and my actions align?

As the Church, are our actions consistent with our words? Certainly, our voices can be a source of advocacy and, in that sense, concrete action. Or, our voices can speak in jubilant tones about that day when Jesus comes again and racism and poverty cease – words that blow away in the wind. Dr. Moffett reminded the group that justice work is “not for the sweet by-and-by, but for the nasty here and now.”

The Matthew 25 vision compels us to action: to feed, to quench thirst, to visit, to clothe – in other words, to be smack in the midst of God’s people doing what matters. I’m grateful for the daring of the Presbytery and many of its congregations to adopt this vision. You’ve affirmed the need to go beyond words, into action. In doing so, we remain true to ourselves and to the Good News we’ve been entrusted to proclaim. Thank you for your ministries that open our eyes to Jesus in our midst. Thank you for your witness that goes beyond words. Thank you for doing what matters.