

YOUR VIEWS

What would Jesus do?

I was on my way home tonight and stopped by the office break room. On the table was a newspaper with the story about Turlock opting to sell its homeless facility. The first thought that came to my mind was that Turlock once held the Guinness world record for the most churches per capita, and my next thought was Matthew 25:37-45

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'"

The only bright light were the dissenting votes from our mayor John Lazar and councilwoman Hatcher. Thank you!

I am amazed at how easily we can dismiss human suffering. I take offense to the elitist attitudes that brand the homeless as ex-cons, and workers of illegal activities. I am sure that some are, but who wouldn't be if they were starving to death, had no where to sleep, were cold, hot, or otherwise unable to help themselves. I wonder if anyone has ever tried to live rationally on but a few hours of sleep a week, as some of these poor souls. Should the homeless in Turlock simply lay down and die so as not to inconvenience the rest of us?

I don't personally know what to do, but am willing to help if someone that knows what to do would step forward.

The excuses over the concern of potential liability are beyond me. I can only assume that who ever said that never consulted their insurance broker, or looked into any risk management options. Why would they based on the callous remarks made that "the city shouldn't be in the homeless shelter business" which completely missed the point that the city is already in the homeless shelter business; drive downtown or ask any of our downtown business owners or residents.

Ignoring the issue will simply lead to crimes of desperation. What would Jesus do?

— Grant Davis