



CHRISTMAS 2015



Elements Class: Sunday, Dec 27th
Choir Room 10:45am

5 Things to remember this Christmas:

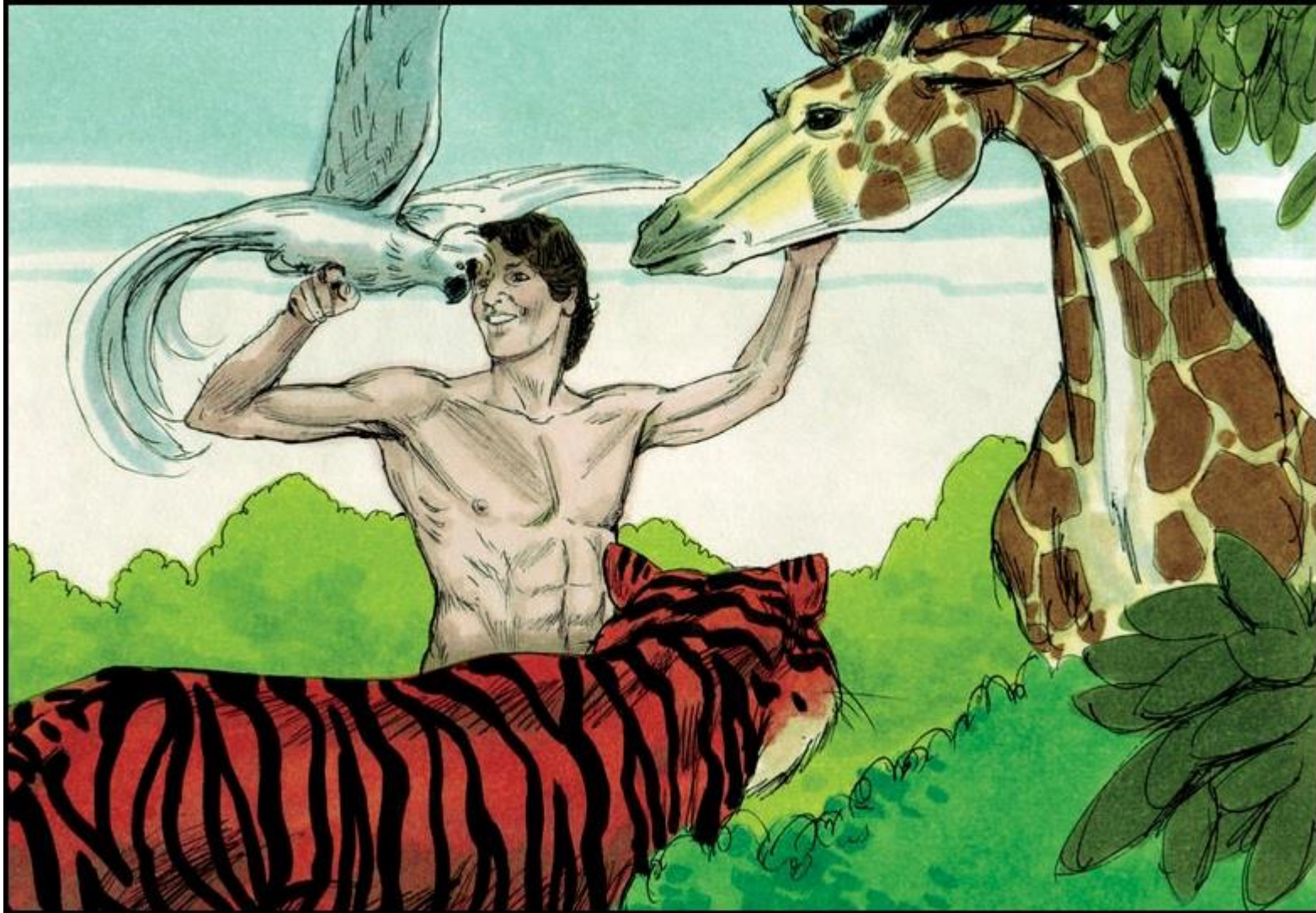
- **Manger**
- **Message**
- **Ministry**
- **Mission**
- **Master**

Manger

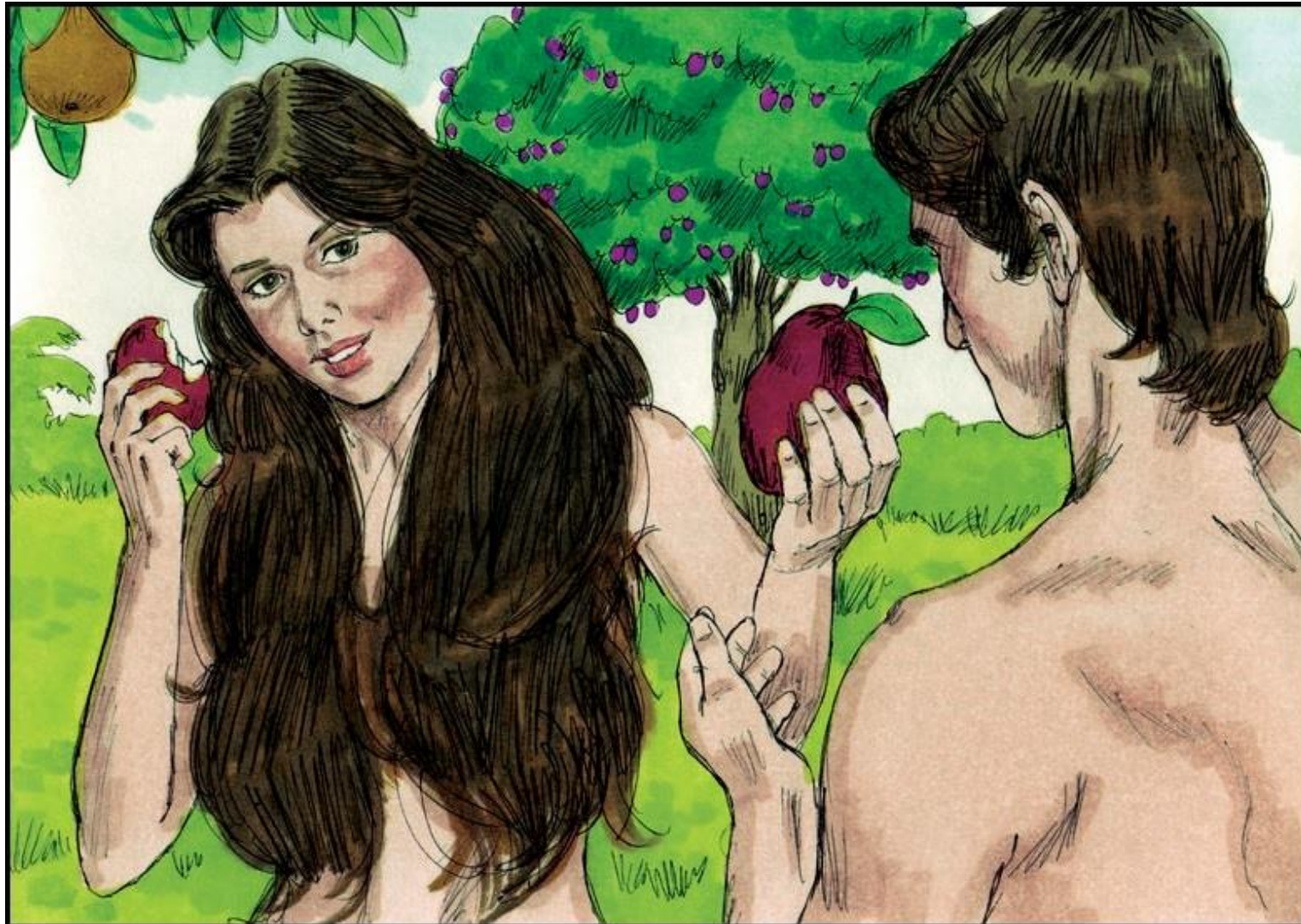


“...the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” **Luke 2:6-7**

The manger scene should remind us of God's first human son, who was brought into being among the animals.



The manger should remind us of man's fall from this perfect position with God.



The manger should remind us of our own
birth, separated from God.

*Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time
my mother conceived me.*
Psalm 51:5



The manger scene should remind us that we are each born
and live with “no room” in our hearts for God.



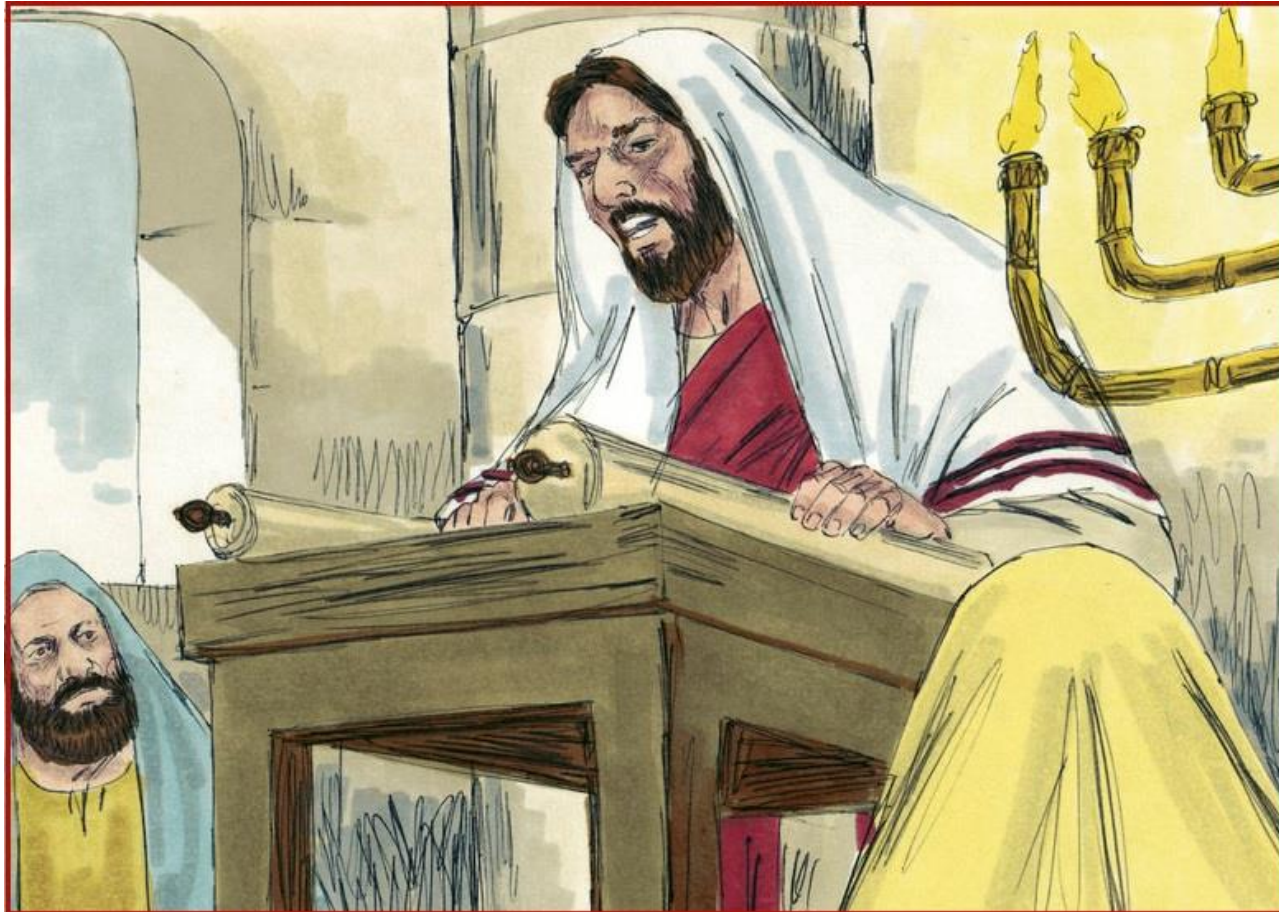
The manger scene should remind us of the extent to which God was willing to go to keep his promises.

“I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Gen 3:15



Message



“From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’.”

Matthew 4:17

Jesus' message should remind
us that we are each sinful, in
need of repenting.

*"I have not come to call
the righteous, but sinners
to repentance."* **Luke 5:32**



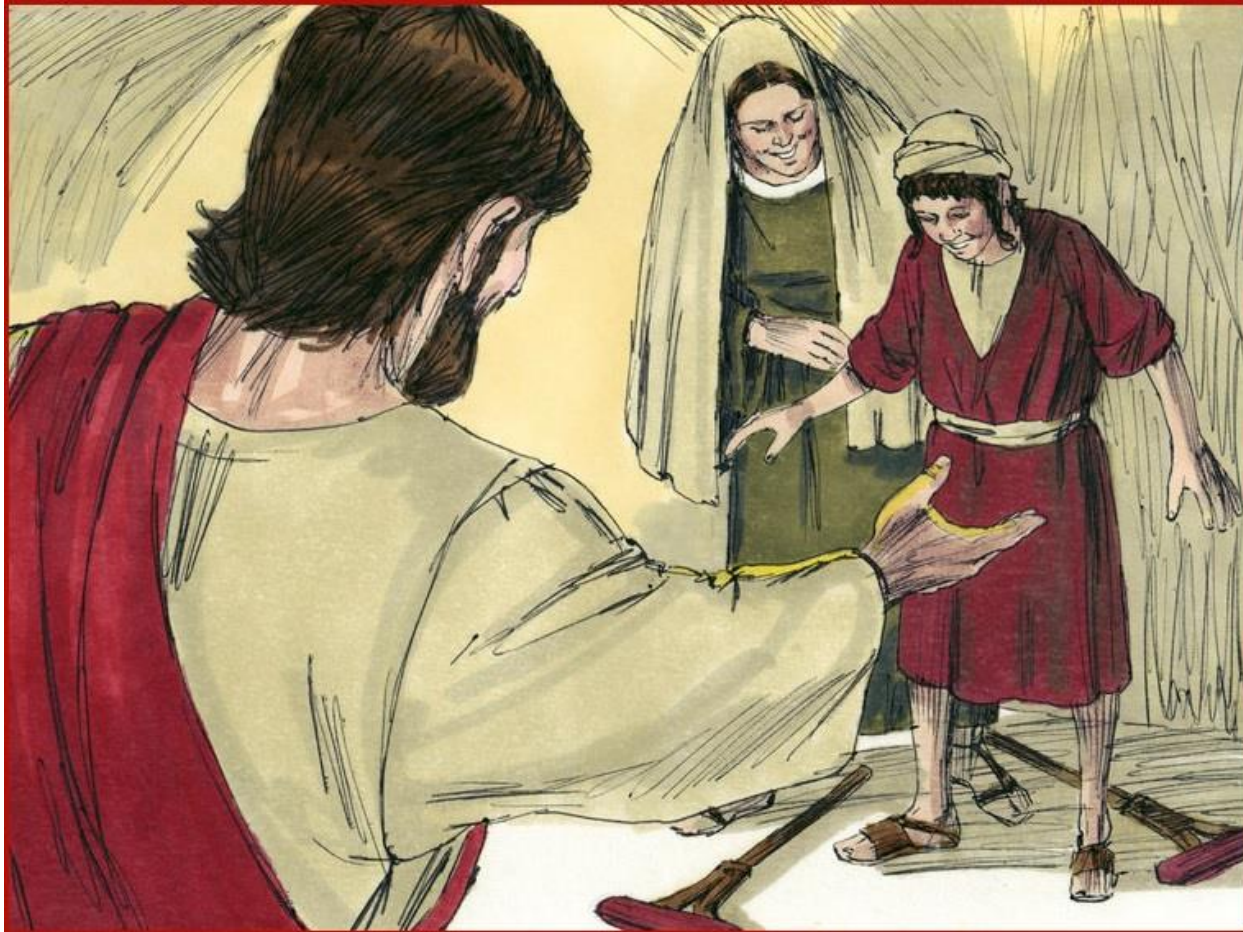
Jesus' message should remind us of the core things we should be communicating to the lost.

**1) *The end is near...
God is coming.***

**2) *Change your thinking...
and agree with God.***

**3) *You are not good enough...
believe what God has done.***

Ministry



“And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.”

Matthew 15:29-31

Jesus' ministry should remind us that we are each damaged in many ways and we need his touch.

“Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.” **Isaiah 53:4**

“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” **Matthew 11:28**

Jesus' ministry shows us that real ministry not only meets the physical needs of people, but it meets their spiritual needs as well and brings them to God.

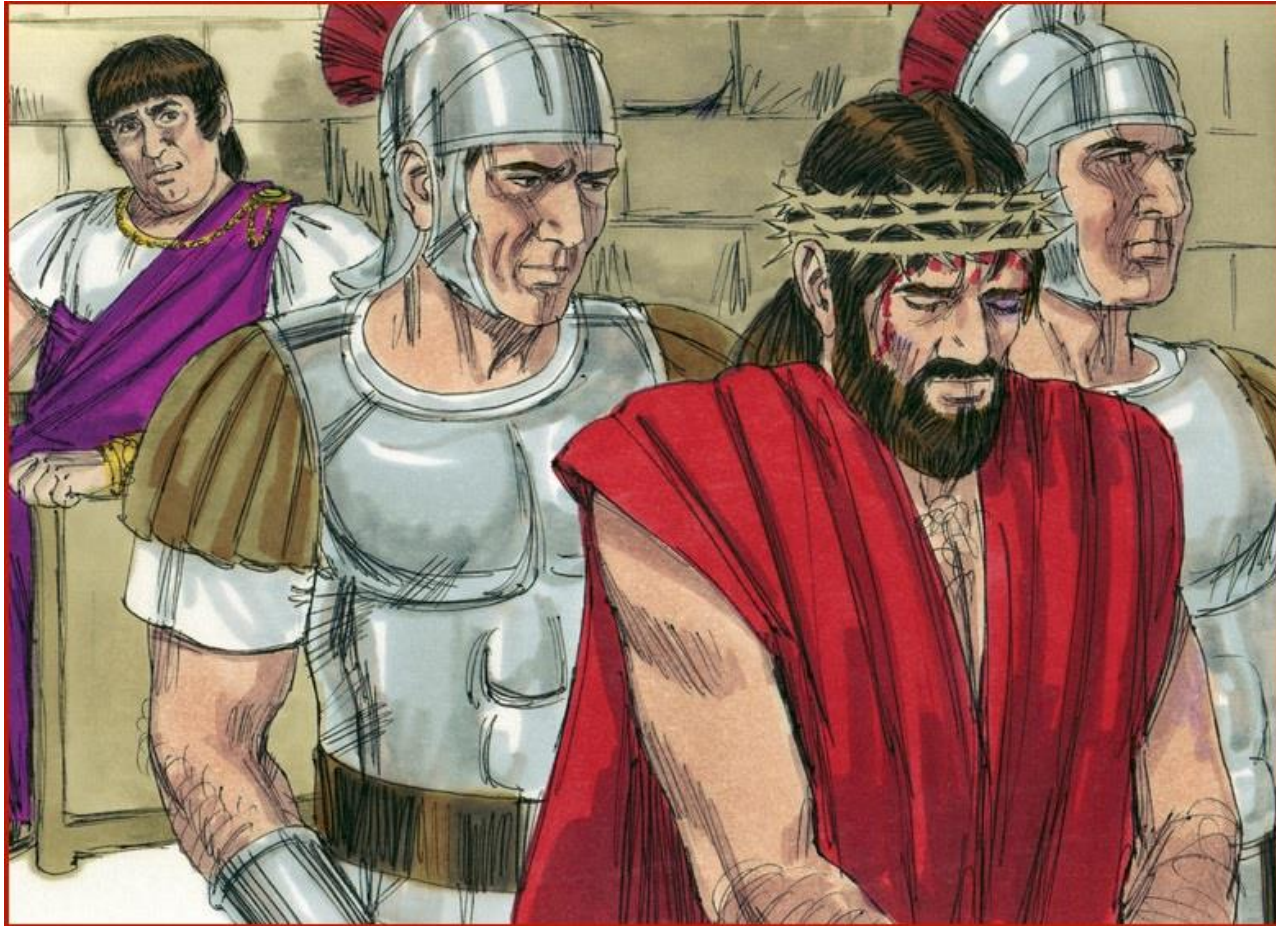
*“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.” **1 Peter 3:18***

Jesus' ministry shows us that all true help, all true healing, all true comfort and all real saving can be found in him alone.

“Simon Peter replied, ‘Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life.’”

John 6:68

Mission



“So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull... There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them...and he said, ‘It is accomplished,’ and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” **John 19:17-18, 30**

“She will give birth to a son, and
you are to give him the name
Jesus, because he will save his
people from their sins.” **Matt 1:21**

Jesus' mission should remind us that we need
rescued. We are not ok as we are!

*He gave himself for our sins in order to rescue us from
the present evil age, according to the will of our God
and Father. **Galatians 1:4***

Jesus' mission should remind us that we are also on a mission to seek and save the lost all around us.

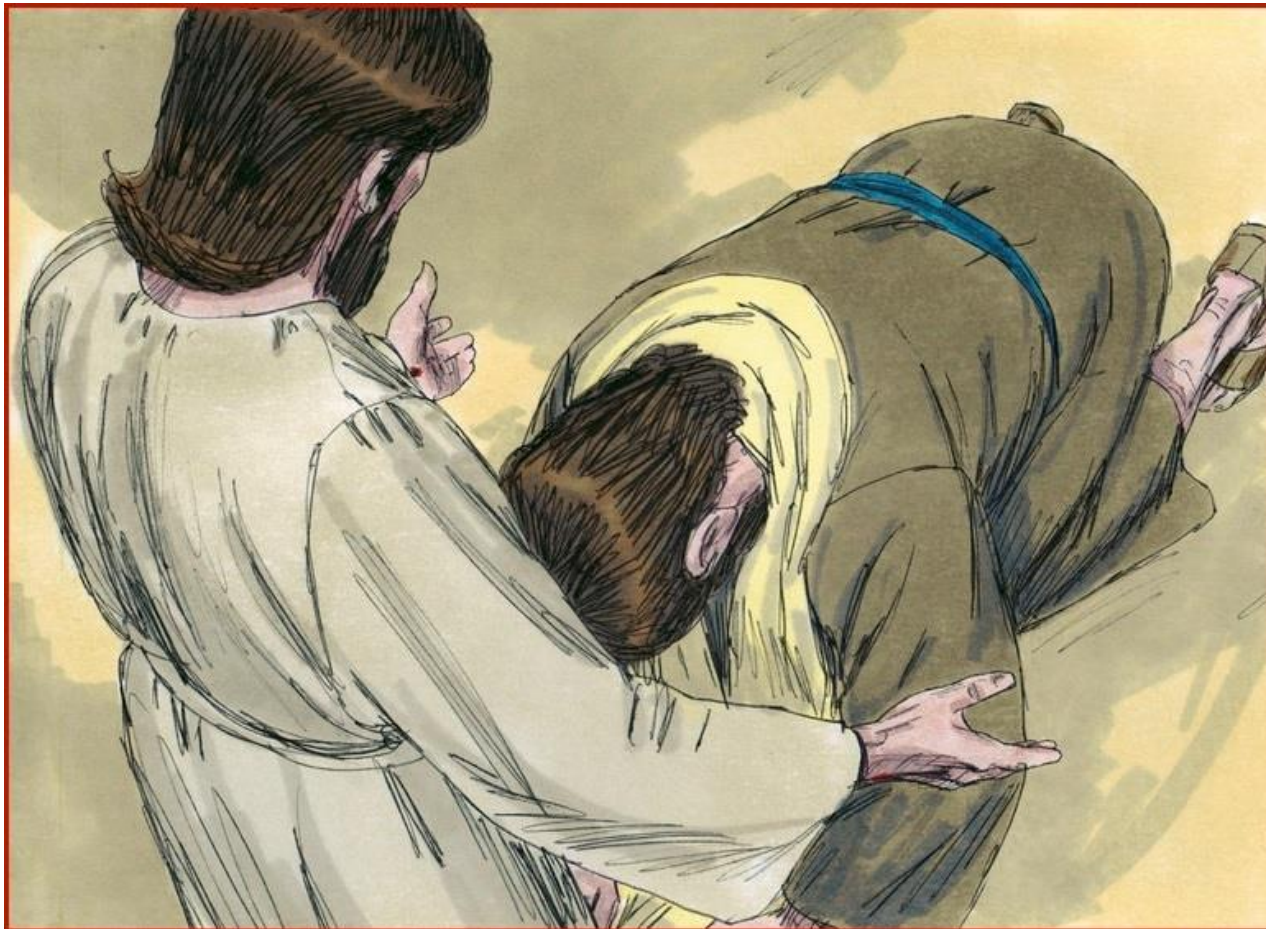
So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

2 Corinthians 5:20

Jesus' mission should remind us what true love for others looks like.

*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. **John 15:23***

Master



“And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” **Philippians 2:8-11**

Seeing Jesus as master should remind us that one day we will all stand before him.

*“Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God...Yes So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. **Romans 14:10, 12***

*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. **Hebrew 4:13***

Seeing Jesus as master should remind us that even now, in all things, I should submit to his will, his purpose and his design.

*You have put in subjection all things under his feet. For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing outside of his control. But at present we do not yet see all things put in their place under him. **Hebrews 2:8***