

I AM SENT TO MY CITY

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "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.'

Matthew 25:31-40 (NIV)

❖ Who is "DUU-VAAL" ?

1. Population of Duval County (Jacksonville): 957,755 (July, 2020).

- Anglo - 52%
- African American - 31%
- Hispanic - 10%
- Asian - 5%
- Other – 2%

2. Income and Expenses in Jacksonville:

- \$53,473 – Median household income in 2020 (It was \$40,316 in 2000).
- \$166,900 – Median house/condo value in 2020 (It was \$87,800 in 2000).

3. Education and Crime in Jacksonville:

- 86% - Graduation rate (2019)
- 110 - Murders 2020 (131 in '19; 112 in '18)

➤ KEY TRUTH: Why is this MY PROBLEM?... Because this is my JERUSALEM.

❖ What Are The Opportunities Before Us?

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

1. There are opportunities in our CHURCH.

So his master said, "Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full."

Luke 14:23 (NLT)

2. There are opportunities in our COMMUNITY.

I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.

Mark 9:41 (NIV)

3. There are opportunities based on your personal CALLING.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

- ❖ What Can I Do? How Can I Make a Difference?

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

1. PARTNER with a Community Ministry.

We Christians, then, must help these people, so that we may share in their work for the truth.

3 John 1:8 (TEV)

2. PRAYER-WALK our Neighborhoods.

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Luke 10:2 (NIV)

3. PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR MOUTH IS.

"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Matthew 6:2-4 (NIV)

And (Peter) said, "Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor."

Acts 10:31 (NIV)

- ❖ Closing Challenge: Now we KNOW... what will we DO ABOUT IT?

Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

James 4:17 (NIV)