



Justice and Advocacy: Loneliness

God's Heart for the Lonely and Unseen

Loneliness and disconnection are not new, but they are everywhere in our world today. In Victoria, we see it in people sleeping rough or couch-surfing, in older neighbours living alone, in those grieving a loved one, or in someone newly arrived and navigating a strange culture and language. Sometimes it's hidden in plain sight – in the friend who feels invisible at work, the young adult new to a city, or the person who smiles on the outside but aches on the inside.

The Bible reminds us that every human being is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), created for connection: with God, with others, and even with a sense of belonging to a place. When those connections are missing, we feel less than whole, and our hearts long for something more. Scripture tells us that God “sets the lonely in families” (Psalm 68:6) and that He draws near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18). God sees the unseen and loves the overlooked.

Throughout Jesus' ministry, He consistently moved toward the margins – sharing meals with outcasts, touching those considered untouchable, and calling people by name. His way was defined by presence, compassion, and restoration.

For us, following Jesus means reflecting that same heart. The call isn't simply to fix every problem – because we can't – but to *be* something: a community of welcome and belonging. It means becoming a people who notice, who listen, and who offer friendship.

Jesus summed it up simply: “Love your neighbour as yourself” (Mark 12:31). That love often starts with something as ordinary as noticing someone who feels alone, sitting with them, or extending a meal, a conversation, or a genuine invitation to belong. These small acts can become glimpses of God's Kingdom – places where people encounter not just human kindness, but the God who sees and loves them.

Reflection:

Take a moment to think about someone in your life, neighbourhood, or church who may be feeling alone or overlooked. How might you be God's presence to them this week – with a word, an invitation, or even quiet companionship?

Prayer:

Lord, thank You that You see the lonely and the brokenhearted, and that You never leave us alone. Help us to notice those who are overlooked, and to offer the same presence, compassion, and welcome that Jesus showed. Make our churches places of belonging, where Your love is felt and seen. Amen.