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who are burdened with unbearable pain? What will we do when someone walks through our doors and they have an offensive smell? Or their language is not comfortable to us? Perhaps their clothes and hair will be completely different; will we still welcome them with love? Will tattoos, piercings and brandings offend our sensibilities? How about the ex-con, fresh out of prison? The drunkard who comes in hung over? The drug user with needle tracks or smelling of pot? How far will we go in order to serve God? Will we leave our comfort zones in order to be useful tools in God's master plan? Perhaps we need to remind ourselves who Christ came to minister to. Who was it that Christ said needed a physician in Matthew 9:12?

¹²When Jesus heard that, He said to them, **"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."**

The "well" probably already have a church they are attending regularly. It is the sick; the broken, shattered vessels and ruined lives that God will bring to us. Are we ready to sacrifice our time and invest our hearts in the people who pass through our doors? Will we select only cookie-cutter copies of ourselves, people that we feel comfortable with, or will we love other people as Christ loves us, flawed and far from perfect? Are we willing to learn how to minister to the broken souls who desperately need Christ's love? Do we take Christ's admonition in Matthew 7:1 seriously, where He said **¹"Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you"**?

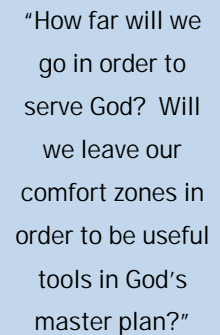
We don't know how to deal with broken people yet. They make us uncomfortable because we don't understand them. They act wrong. They say the wrong things. They make us feel uneasy and awkward. There is much to feel uncomfortable about. It

is natural to avoid what we fear or cannot understand. But if Christ loves us enough to accept us as we are, what right do we have to reject those whom we do not understand? Christ commands us to reach out to these people. Will we eagerly meet the challenge or will we turn away and shirk our responsibility to Christ and to our community?

We have a new name and a new direction. God is challenging us to be useful servants. He wants us to prepare to minister to our community. That requires us to once again leave our comfort zone. We need to stretch ourselves. We need to be willing to learn and grow. Yet one more time, we need to be willing to make changes. Will we meet our new responsibilities with joy and expectation? Will we look forward to the reward for a job well done? Will we make the effort to be truly useful to God? Each of us has to make a choice. Let's all join together and learn how to move forward.

I believe with all my heart that our new name and vision are appropriate for

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