

I was very impressed by the prayer at today's BOC meeting. The Our Father was recited.

Public witnessing of one's faith is considered unchristian. The book of Matthew says, "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen." The quote marks means that these words were spoken by Jesus Christ, the founder of Christianity.

Beyond that Matthew quotes Jesus about what we must do in life to get to Heaven. In one place Jesus was quoted as saying to the effect that to be a follower one must feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, shelter the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the imprisoned.

The whole point of the New Testament lies in this passage: Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

I have a proposal for you to consider instead of praying and that is to include on each agenda the following action items:

Hunger: Feed people who need food.

Thirst: Make certain clean water is maintained for everyone's benefit.

Immigrants: Immigrants should be treated as if they were Jesus.

Warmth: No one should be naked or out in the cold.

Prisoners: Some one of you must visit them and bring them anything they might need in friendship as if the prisoner were you.

Thank you,

Bob Martel