

**Fix Your Eyes on Jesus' Care for the Poor: "The Least of These."**

Focus Passage: Matthew 25:31–46

Larger Context: Sandwiched between Jesus teaching about his second coming and events leading to Jesus' crucifixion

Other Passages Referenced: Matthew 10:40; 18:5; 28:10; John 3:36; Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:8–10; Hebrews 2:17

**Sermon Recap**

The sermon stated, "In Matthew 25 we get a glimpse of the final judgement. Jesus is described as coming 'in his glory.' He does not come to merge into the conscience of all living things, but to sit on a "glorious throne." He does not come with some of the angels gather, but 'all the angels' are with him. He does not come to say, how can I help get things back on track, but to 'separate,' to render the just judgment on our lives. It is not just a few nations that will be summoned before him, but 'before him will be gathered all the nations.'" At His first coming, many never saw Him and others who did failed to recognize Him as the promised Messiah King. Jesus declared that at His return, everyone would see and recognize Him. Don't miss seeing Jesus and don't miss serving Jesus in *the least of these*. (Refer to last Sunday's message on Jesus as our true treasure.)

Jesus stated that while He had not been present physically, actually He had been among them all along in the presence of "the least of these." The least of these certainly included fellow believers in need but may have also included everyone in need.

We should be careful to note that Jesus was not teaching that people can be saved by doing good works. Rather, He was saying that those who are saved will demonstrate their salvation by ministering to *the least of these*. The sermon claimed, "Faith is the reason for salvation. Good works are the result of salvation." It is remarkable that those who were affirmed for ministering to Jesus by ministering to *the least of these* were genuinely surprised and puzzled at how Jesus said they had ministered to Him. They did not point to their good works as a justification for their salvation.

Serving *the least of these* requires, humility, proximity, regularity, and availability—the availability of one's self and one's resources. Don't miss seeing and serving Jesus by ministering to the least of these.

**Group Gathering**

**Group Check-in** — Care, Celebration, Encouragement (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Informal conversation to allow individuals to catch up with one another.
2. Ask if anyone would share how they've been hearing and obeying God's direction.

**Allow the Word to Speak** — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

**READ Matt 25:31–46**

1. What from the passage or sermon was most impactful to you?
2. Were you left with any questions or confusion about the passage or sermon?

3. List the actions that Jesus associated with the “sheep” who had indirectly ministered to Him by ministering to others.
4. What two things are said to have been “prepared” ahead of time (Matt 25:34; 41)?

**Put the Word into Practice** — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Who are some examples of *the least of these* within a ten-minute drive of where I live?
2. Where do I tend to display pride and arrogance? How do I need to cultivate greater humility?
3. With whom among *the least of these* am I in proximity? Am I using that proximity to minister to them directly and to Jesus through them?
4. Do I need to minister to *the least of these* more intentionally and regularly? What are one or two concrete steps I can take toward that end?
5. How available have I been in the last month to minister to others with my energies and resources? Do I need to make adjustments in the coming month?

**The Big Question:** What do you sense God's Spirit saying to you and what concrete action will you take in response? Share your answer with the group or another trusted Christian and ask them to pray for you.

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:**

Click [here](#) for some good opportunities to serve with our local and global mission partners.

**Further Resources** – Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of [www.wcchapel.org](http://www.wcchapel.org)



# **Who are the “least of these my brothers?”**

- **Brothers = Gk: Adelphos**
  - **Adelphos as fellow believers in need**
    - **Mat. 28:10, 10:40**
  - **Adelphos as anyone in need**
    - **Heb. 2:17, Mat. 18:5**



**So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

***Galatians 6:10***



## **Matthew 25:31-46 warns us:**

- Don't miss seeing Jesus**
- Don't miss serving Jesus**



**<sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

***Ephesians 2:8-10***



**Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.**

***John 3:36***



**“The elect will be ignorant of their virtues,  
and the outcast of the greatness of their sins.”**

**—*Blaise Pascal, Pensees***



## **Serving Jesus requires—Mat. 25:31-46**

- **Humility**
- **Proximity**
- **Regularity**
- **Availability—yourself and your resources**



**“There are no great things,  
only small things done with great love.”**

***—Mother Teresa***