

“Making Room For The Poor”

Matthew 25:31-46

Matthew 25

The Sheep and the Goats

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² 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. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ “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. ³⁵ 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, ³⁶ 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.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ ⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ ⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Small Group Questions:

1. What's one thing that stayed with you about the sermon?
2. Read through Matthew 25:31-46. What strikes you? What is puzzling?
3. In verse 34, it is interesting that Christ says, "take your inheritance" versus saying, "take your reward." What is the difference & what are the implications of using "inheritance" instead?
4. Do you see commonalities in the needs mentioned in verses 37 through 39? If so, what?
5. How would you answer that question Redd asked, "How do you love the poor?"
6. The people to the left were condemned to eternal punishment not because of evil they did but because of the good they didn't do. Are there good deeds that you have wanted to do but remain undone? Please describe what they are and why they remain undone.
7. How can your family or community help in doing these deeds? How can you focus on one?
8. What are other things you or your small group/family can do to make room for the poor & marginalized?