

Grades 7-12

We looked further in **Matthew 25:34-45** to see Jesus painting a picture of people providing for the "least of these" with no motive other than pure love. Jesus told the the ones

on His right that they were blessed and would inherit the Kingdom of God because the things they did with the love OF Christ are just like things done FOR Christ.

He told the ones on His left that they were cursed into eternal fire and separation from God because of what they did not do for the "least of these".

We thought about what Jesus was saying when compared to what we know about God's character and about salvation. We know that we are saved by our faith and our acceptance of Jesus as our Savior. We said that on the surface, it may look like Jesus was saying that the ones on His right were saved by their actions.

When we looked back at **Matthew 25:32** when Jesus said He would separate the people as a shepherd separates the goats from the sheep we could see that it was not their actions that caused them to be saved or not. But, it was their actions that identified them as already being saved or not.

The people on His right did those things because they had already been saved and it showed they had a saving relationship with Jesus. The people on His left not doing those things showed that they had no saving relationship with Jesus and did not have the love of Christ in their hearts.

We are not saved by our actions but our actions are proof of the change that Jesus has made in our lives. So, loving the "least of these" does not make us a Christian. But, when we are saved, our actions are the fruit of our transformation.

Our good deeds do not make us righteous but our righteousness leads us to do good deeds. As we've said many times before, we are not saved by our good works but are saved to do good works.

We finished up by discussing several of the "least of these" such as, Hungry, Thirsty, Homeless, Clothes & Sick, and came up with ways we could meet the immediate need of such a person and also a meet the long term needs of this person.

We said that we need to make sure to use our common sense and be careful that providing for the needs of the "least of these" never puts us into any kind of danger and we should also always make sure to ask and to listen to the Holy Spirit for guidance on how best we can help them.

We also discussed a few things that our Youth Group already does such as our monthly community service at CPS and our collection of personal care items for Christmas presents for teens in the foster care system.

This lesson and our discussion even lead us to create a brand new project for our Youth Group to actively show God's love to the "least of these" in our community. More information about this new project will come as we develop it.

We repeated one more time that showing our love by providing for the poor and the needy or the "least of these" is **NOT** a requirement for salvation but rather a sign of the love that comes from being saved and having a real personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Join us next time as we continue talking about what Jesus had to say about being known by our love.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, July 18: Our monthly community service at Tempe CPS will be on Saturday (July 18th) We meet at LWA at 9:30am and return after lunch.



Please Email us with any questions.

FX15-BeU Youth Conference!

Mark your calendars now for the biggest most exciting Youth Conference ever!

**November 12th through November 14th
at Living Word in Mesa**

Lots of fun activities for Junior High and High School students with amazing guest speakers and performers each day. Invite all of your friends!

More details to come...Mark your calendars now!

Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Deuteronomy 15:7-8, Matthew 25:31-46

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller
1 Youth Ministry

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