

USING MY ABILITIES

Part 4: DNA

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Matthew 25:31–46 (NLT)

³¹ “But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ ³⁷ “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? ³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’ ⁴¹ “Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. ⁴² For I was hungry, and you didn’t feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn’t give me a drink. ⁴³ I was a stranger, and you didn’t invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn’t give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’ ⁴⁴ “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’ ⁴⁵ “And he will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’ ⁴⁶ “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

WHAT I NEED TO KNOW BEFORE I GO!

1. MY DESTINY IS DETERMINED BY MY DECISION.

“Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.” (John 10:9–11, NLT)

2. MY PAYMENT IS DETERMINED BY MY PERFORMANCE.

“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.” (James 2:14–17, NLT)

All God really wants:
A SIMPLE **SKILL** YIELDED TO HIS WILL.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE?

1. I MUST **RELEASE** MY AUTHORITY.

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24, NLT)

2. I MUST **REFUSE** TO SETTLE IN.

“If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.” (2 Timothy 2:21, NLT)

3. I MUST **REARRANGE** MY PRIORITIES.

“The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.” (Mark 4:18–19, NLT)

4. I MUST **REDIRECT** MY TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE FOR HIS MISSION!

“Who am I, and who is Apollos...we’re just God’s servants, each of us with certain special abilities, and with our help you believed.” (1 Corinthians 3:5, The Living Bible)

5. I MUST **RECOGNIZE** THE NEEDS AROUND ME.

“Keep your eyes open for GOD, watch for his works; be alert for signs of his presence.” (Psalm 105:4, The Message)

The Mantra of a Missional Christian

See a need and **FILL IT**.
Find a hurt and **HEAL IT**.

Last Thought:

I can’t do everything, but I could _____.