God Family Country

GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Treating People Like They Matter

Speaker: Shane Condon

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Highlighted Scripture

- **Matthew 25:35 (NIV, excerpt)**

  "I was a stranger and you invited me in,"

  In Jesus' account of the final judgment, the King recognizes concrete care for those he calls his brothers and sisters. Shane draws attention to the ordinary acts named here: feeding, giving a drink, and welcoming. Compassion begins by seeing a person, and it can move toward practical help. Such care expresses love for Christ rather than a desire to be noticed.

- **Psalm 100:3 (NIV, excerpt)**

  "we are his people, the sheep of his pasture."

  This psalm calls God's people to joyful worship and thanksgiving because he made them and they belong to him. Shane connects that assurance with the way we treat others. Receiving God's care gives us reason to be grateful, attentive, and generous; belonging to him should shape our daily conduct.

Discussion Questions

- When you imagine a life that makes a difference, what comes to mind? How does Shane's emphasis on ordinary kindness challenge that picture?
- In Wanda and George's story, the man was grateful that someone would talk with him. What does this reveal about needs that can remain hidden even when material help is available?
- Think about entering a church or group where everyone else seems connected. What might make a welcome feel personal rather than routine?
- How can the assurance that you belong to God help you give attention to someone without needing recognition or a particular response?
- Shane says we cannot help everyone with everything and need wisdom. How can we offer meaningful care while respecting limits and involving others when needed?

Reflection Challenge

This week, make room for one person you might overlook. Offer an unhurried conversation, a genuine welcome, or practical help. Listen to their needs before deciding how to respond.

Ask yourself:

- Where does my busyness make me least attentive to the people around me?
- Whom do I tend to pass by because they seem unfamiliar, different, or difficult to approach?
- Am I willing to listen even when I cannot fix the problem or see an immediate result?

Try this:

- At church or another gathering, greet someone outside your usual circle. Learn their name and introduce them to someone else if they would welcome it.
- Set aside your phone for a conversation. Ask an open question, then listen without rushing to give advice.
- Offer one realistic next step: prayer with their consent, a small practical help, or a connection to someone equipped to assist.
- Afterward, thank God for the opportunity and consider whether a simple follow-up would be helpful. Respect the person's preferences and privacy.

Remember

- A meaningful life includes faithful attention to ordinary opportunities.
- Listening and welcoming can communicate that a person matters.
- Compassion can lead to practical help without requiring you to solve every problem.
- God's care for his people calls forth gratitude that shapes how they treat others.
- As Shane says, sometimes making a difference starts with simply treating somebody like they matter.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you that your people belong to you and are cared for by you. Forgive me for the times I have been too occupied with my own plans to notice someone nearby. Open my eyes to the person who feels out of place or unheard.

Give me patience to listen, courage to offer a welcome, and wisdom to help within my limits. Keep me from making assumptions or seeking credit. Let the kindness I have received from you become kindness I share in the ordinary moments of this week.

In Jesus' name, Amen.