

Gospel Reset: The Least of These - Main Idea: All people are made in the image of God and possess unalienable worth. A true Gospel reset reshapes how we think, speak, act, and give toward the least of these.

Foundation Reset: Image of God

Genesis 1:27 “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

Truth: Human worth is rooted in the Creator, not in behavior, status, productivity, or condition.

1. Reset Our Mind

Romans 12:2 “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Truth: The battlefield is the mind. Without renewal, we drift toward prejudice, pride, and selective compassion.

2. Reset Our Words

Proverbs 31:8-9 “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy.” **James 3:4- 5** - The tongue directs the course of life like a rudder directs a ship.

Truth: A renewed mind produces renewed speech. We either reinforce dignity or undermine it with our words.

3. Reset Our Actions

James 2:14-17 “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

Truth Faith is demonstrated, not merely declared. Compassion requires movement.

4. Reset Our Money

Matthew 6:19-21 “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Truth: Investment directs affection. When treasure is placed toward Kingdom compassion, the heart follows.

Final Challenge

Read **Matthew 25:31- 46** this week. Examine whether your life reflects Jefferson style inconsistency or Gospel integrity.

A Gospel reset on the least of these means:

- Renewed Mind
- Redeemed Words
- Active Faith
- Directed Treasure

All flowing from this unshakable truth: **Every person you encounter bears the image of God and has unalienable worth.**

Devotion 1 Scripture - Genesis 1:27 “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

Reflection: Before we ever get to Matthew 25 and the least of these, we must start in Genesis. Human value does not begin with usefulness, morality, citizenship, productivity, or likability. It begins with creation. Every person you see today bears the image of God. That includes the coworker who frustrates you. The addict who relapsed again. The inmate. The immigrant. The person whose politics make your blood pressure rise. Their worth is not based on agreement or behavior. It is rooted in their Maker. We often judge value by condition. God assigns value by creation. A damaged cello is still priceless if it carries the mark of its maker. In the same way, no human being loses worth because of where they are found. If we miss this foundation, everything else collapses.

Challenge: Ask the Lord to show you one person you struggle to value. Pray specifically, “Help me see them as Your image bearer.” Then treat them accordingly in your next interaction.

Devotion 2 Scripture - Romans 12:2 “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

Reflection: The mind is the first battlefield in loving the least of these. Culture constantly feeds us categories. Us and them. Deserving and undeserving. Safe and dangerous. Worthy and waste. Without intentional renewal, we absorb these categories. Renewal does not mean ignoring wisdom or boundaries. It means refusing to let contempt take root. It means catching yourself when your thoughts drift toward superiority. It means asking the Spirit to interrupt assumptions before they harden into beliefs. If the mind is not reset, words will follow the flesh. Actions will follow comfort. And compassion will shrink. Transformation begins internally before it ever becomes visible externally.

Challenge: Pay attention to your internal dialogue today. When you find yourself thinking critically or dismissively about someone, pause and pray. Replace that thought with a truth about their identity as an image bearer.

Devotion 3 Scripture - Matthew 6:21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” James 2:17 “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

Reflection: It is possible to feel compassion and never act. It is possible to speak well and never sacrifice. Jesus connects the heart to treasure for a reason. Investment directs affection. When you put resources toward something, you begin to care about it. When you serve someone consistently, you begin to see them differently. When you give financially toward the vulnerable, their stories matter more to you. Faith is not proven by agreement. It is demonstrated by action. Caring for the least of these is not sentiment. It is movement. If your heart feels distant from the vulnerable, the solution may not be more emotion. It may be obedience.

Challenge: Choose one concrete action this week. Give. Serve. Visit. Sponsor. Volunteer. Do something measurable that costs you time or money. Then watch what happens to your heart.