

THE
MATTHEW 25
CHALLENGE

Matthew 25 Challenge

Part 2: Adjusting Your Vision

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right,

Matthew 25:31-46

'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying,

Matthew 25:31-46

'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?'³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?'³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:31-46

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Matthew 25:31-46

⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Adjusting Your Vision

Justice

Justice

- They didn't see Jesus in those in need.

Looking at Lazarus

Luke 16:19-26

¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

Luke 16:19-26

²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

Luke 16:19-26

²⁵ " But Abraham replied, ' Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.

²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' "

Looking at Lazarus

- Injustice and lack of mercy are often passive rather than active.

Looking at Lazarus

- Injustice and lack of mercy are often passive rather than active.
- Injustice and lack of mercy are the result of objectifying people.

Looking at Lazarus

- Injustice and lack of mercy are often passive rather than active.
- Injustice and lack of mercy are the result of objectifying people.
- Injustice is personal.

God's Plan "A"

God's Plan "A"

- We need to see ourselves as God sees us – as God's workmanship, *"created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance"* (Eph 2:10)

God's Plan "A"

- We need to see ourselves as God sees us – as God's workmanship, *"created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance"* (Eph 2:10)
- Their common denominator was they were all willing to be used by God.

- *What adjustments in your life do you need to make to be ready to fully live out Matthew 25?*

- *What adjustments in your life do you need to make to be ready to fully live out Matthew 25?*
- *What are some barriers in your life that may be keeping you from being willing to be fully used by God?*

- *What adjustments in your life do you need to make to be ready to fully live out Matthew 25?*
- *What are some barriers in your life that may be keeping you from being willing to be fully used by God?*
- *What is one thing you can commit to doing this week to improve your sensitivity to justice and mercy?*