

MATTHEW 25:31-46

**NOW, HOW  
DO WE  
LIVE?**

REV. IN KEE KIM



# Scripture Passage

Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and



visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."



# Sermon

## Now, How Do We Live?

Last few weeks, we have been reflecting on two types of lifestyle. Studying Psalm 1, we reflected on the life like the tree planted by streams of living water that yield their fruit in its season and also the life that is very unstable like chaff that the wind drives away. Studying the wise bridesmaids and the foolish bridesmaids, we examined the life that is prepared to handle any unexpected circumstances and also the life that is not prepared at all. Then through the parable of talents, Dave reflected on the life that is faithful and the life that is not faithful and I reflected on the life that has much desire to want to know God and the life that doesn't do anything to know God. The more desire you have about knowing God, the more mysteries will be revealed to you and if you don't have any desire to know God, even the little knowledge you will lose.

Yes, there are two types of lifestyle. Not all life is the same. I reflected on it last Friday in the Inner Voice. There is a life that is filled with fat because of arrogance and a humble life that is filled with life.



Suffering makes us humble. And suffering melts away the fat that fills our heart. The humbled life is filled with the new, fresh life instead of fat. Let us think about how we should live. Filled with fat? Or filled with new fresh life?

Today's story is the last story of the series of stories so called the *Olivet Discourse*. This story is like the conclusion of all the stories. After Jesus tells us all other stories, Jesus tells us now how we should live. It is the parable of sheep and goat. It again talks about two types of life. Let us examine what we can learn from today's story.

Jesus said, ***"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."*** ***(Matthew 25:35, 36)***. It tells us where Jesus is, doesn't it? Jesus is not way up in the heaven where we cannot reach. Jesus is not far away from us. Jesus is right near us in the people who need our help.

This gives us a new perspective about how we should



help people. When we help them, we should do it as though we serve Jesus. That changes our attitude. When we help those who are in need, we don't look down on them with pity. We serve them as we serve Jesus because Jesus is right there within them.

Mother Theresa did many sermons with this passage. I think she was a rare example who actually lived out this parable. And every time she preached, she did this.

She extended 5 fingers and said, "You-Did-It-To-Me." That was what Jesus said. She saw Jesus in the suffering children in Africa, and she served Jesus when she served them. When we serve those who are in need, we do it to Jesus.

That is the lifestyle the righteous chooses to live. Yes, of course, we need to take care of our family and also ourselves. That is important. It is a good thing to do. And a responsible thing to do. But we need to go beyond our family and our own needs. That's what this parable teaches us to do. This is what all human beings should do and moreso, that is what we Christians should do. It's not about just giving food and clothes.

Mother Theresa said this: "We think sometimes that



poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for is the greatest poverty." How true. Around us, there are people who feel rejected, alienated, unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We need to be mindful of those people. Understanding them, praying for them, crying for them, being in solidarity with them; that is what this parable teaches us to do. If we can go further to even love them, that will be so inspiring. Doing it or not doing it is your choice. Which life would you choose?

Sometimes when I look at the problems around me, I feel overwhelmed. We feel so powerless and helpless. Seeing the magnitude of the problems we see, we feel overwhelmed. Sometimes we wonder, "What good is what I do?". But read carefully what Jesus said. He didn't tell us to solve the hunger problem of the world. He said just to share the food you have with the hungry. It is important to give a cup of water to those who are thirsty. Just share your clothes with those who are naked. You already do that. You give your clothes to Thrift Store or Value Village for those who cannot afford new clothes. You work with the Evangel Hall to share hot food. You work through Teesdale to run the food bank.



You have to continue to do that. Make it as a lifestyle.

If it is too much for you to do it alone, then do it through the church. Together collectively we can do that too. Rev. Ohm sent a video the other day to thank us.

There is an interesting point in the story. Like the 10 bridesmaids, both sheep and goat did not know what they were doing. Let's read it again. Then the righteous will answer him, ***"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? (Matthew 25:37-39).***

And the goat also said the same thing; ***"Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you? (Matthew 25:44)***

They both didn't realize what they did and what they did not do. What does that mean? That means it has become their lifestyle. They were not even aware of it. When we enter the water, we know we are in the water, but fish are not aware of it. Because fish live there,



always surrounded by it. When it becomes your lifestyle, you are not aware of what you are doing. Lifestyle is so important. So Jesus is not talking about doing good works once in a while and feeling good about it. Jesus is telling us to make it as a lifestyle. When it becomes our lifestyle, then our eyes will be opened.

We will be able to see those who need our help around us. Until our eyes are open, we won't be able to see it. You don't even know their needs. We will just focus on ourselves. Even though they are suffering right beside us, we won't know. So when serving others becomes our lifestyle, then we will see the needs of people more in depth.

What's in your heart will become your lifestyle. To make it a lifestyle, we need the heart of care. If we have no caring heart, it can never be our lifestyle. Whatever is in our heart becomes our lifestyle. What do we need to know? Two things. First, we need to love Jesus. Just purely love Jesus. Secondly, we need to know that Jesus is in the people who need you. If you know that then it can become your lifestyle.

From tomorrow, Toronto will be locked down again. The maximum number for the church is 10 people. So



everything has to go back to the online service. There will be more people who will suffer. Not just financially, not just physically, but mentally. It is time to care. It is time to pray. Look around you and see if there are people who need your help. Let us have the heart of caring. Let us prepare our hearts with deep care. When we come out of this pandemic, we will come out stronger than ever. We will come out being ready to live a new life. We will come out prepared. We will become a happy person.

Somebody said this, "In seeking happiness for others, you will find it in yourself." That's so true. You want to be happy? Don't go out looking for it, you won't find it. But when you make others happy, you will find happiness within yourself. So, now, how do we live?