

**Dwelling in the Word**

Prayerfully read Matt 25:31-46 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

**Beginning the Conversation**

1. Imagine if Jesus came to you and asked you to do something personally for him. What emotions do you feel as you imagine that encounter with Jesus?
2. In your own discipleship journey, as you have pressed in closer to Jesus, what are some ways you have seen transformation happen in your life?

**Digging Deeper** *(pick some of the following questions to discuss as a group)*

1. In Jeremiah 22:15-16, God is confronting king Jehoiakim for not following in the ways of his father, Josiah. God ties behaviour to knowing him. What behaviors are linked to knowing God?
2. God defines fasting in Isaiah 58:5-11 in a more expansive way than simply denying oneself food. Are these broader definitions of fasting helpful or confusing? Please elaborate.
3. In what ways does Isaiah 58:5-11 parallel Matthew 25? (As a starting point, Fred used a table to describe this in his sermon) Isaiah 61:1-3 speaks to similar themes. How would you describe God's vision for justice using these three passages?
4. In this week's scripture passage in Matthew, Jesus identifies himself with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and the prisoner. Discuss your reaction to Jesus saying that helping those in need is ministering to him.
5. The process of transformation (of becoming more like Jesus) is dealt with in a number of New Testament passages. The benediction referenced 2Corinthians 2:16,17. Read that reference in both the NLT and another version. What does this passage say about the "how" of transformation? Do you have other passages of Scripture on the process of transformation that come to mind? Please share them with the group.

**Living it Out**

1. Helping those in need is close to God's heart. Sponsoring a child through Compassion is one way this can happen. What are other ways to help those in need? Out of the ideas that you listed, is God drawing you towards a particular one?
2. Is there someone in your life that is searching for Jesus? Carve out some time to pray for them this week and ask the Lord if there is one way he would have you show love towards that person.

## The Outcome of A Transformed Heart (Matthew 25:31-46)



Discourse 5  
Conflict of the  
Kingdom (19-25)

March 22, 2026  
Fred Rowson  
Greenfield Community Church

<sup>15</sup> “ Does it make you a king  
to have more and more cedar?  
Did not your father have food and drink?  
He did what was right and just,  
So all went well with him.  
<sup>16</sup> He defended the cause of the poor and needy.,  
And so all went well.  
Is that not what it means to know me?  
declares the Lord

Jer. 22:15,16

<sup>5</sup> Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to  
humble themselves?

Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in  
sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

<sup>6</sup> “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the  
chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke,  
to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the  
poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe  
them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing  
will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you,  
and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup>Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;  
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing  
finger and malicious talk, <sup>10</sup>and if you spend yourselves on  
behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then  
your light will rise in the darkness,  
and your night will become like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup>The Lord will guide you always; ...

Isaiah 58:5 - 11

### God's Definition of Fasting

- To treat others justly (vs. 6), rather than as a means to get what we want.
- To share our food with those who are hungry (vs. 7) & to spend ourselves on behalf of the hungry (vs. 10).
- To provide poor the wanderer with shelter (vs. 7) & to give them a place to belong.
- To clothe those who lack clothing (vs. 7).
- To meet the needs of the oppressed (vs. 6 & vs. 10).

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Matthew 25:31-33

<sup>34</sup> “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

Matthew 25:34-36

<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

<sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Matthew 25:37-40

### Parable of the Sheep

- I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
- I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink
- I was a stranger and you invited me in,
- I needed clothes and you clothed me,
- I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

### Isaiah 58

- To share our food with those who are hungry (vs. 7) and to spend ourselves on behalf of the hungry (vs. 10)
- To provide the poor wanderer with shelter and to give them a place to belong. (vs. 7)
- To clothe those who lack clothing (vs. 7)
- To meet the needs of the oppressed (vs. 6 and vs. 10)



- Helping those in need in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ is not a nice, take it or leave it option.
- What is close to God's heart is what is to be close to our hearts!

## Invitation

- Ask God to lead you, to guide you in your journey of getting close to His heart.
- There are many ways to help those who are in need.
- Sponsoring a child through Compassion is one way this can happen.