

in FOCUS

"FOCUS ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH, PART 1"

January 24, 2010

Matthew 25:31-46 (ESV)

LifeGroup Study

MY STORY

1. When was the last time you helped someone in need? Describe it.
2. Have you ever been helped by a stranger? Describe it.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Matthew 25:31-46. What is the atmosphere of this passage? Consider the specific needs mentioned in the passage. Who did Jesus expect to be able to meet the needs?
2. Verses 34-40 and 41-45 are almost identical in structure. Compare the dialogue between the King and those on his right and left hands in the following ways:
 - a. What is the fate of the two groups?
 - b. What are the standards by which the two groups are judged?
 - c. Whose needs had they met or failed to meet?
 - d. What responses do the two groups make to the King's judgment? What is common to both responses?

- e. On what standards might they have expected the judgment to be based? (Imagine yourself in each group and discuss what would be going through your mind). How does Jesus answer both groups?
- f. Isaiah 53 is a prophecy concerning Jesus Christ. This passage is also known as the suffering servant passage. Read 53:3, what is Jesus' relationship to those who are in sorrow and grief? How does your understanding of that passage shape or influence the way you relate to those who are in grief and sorrow now?
- g. Why is it consistent that those who have ministered to the needy on earth should spend eternity with the King? Explain how those who the King commands to "depart" had already departed from him. James 2:20 captures the same basic idea. What does it say in James 2:20? Is this talking about salvation based on works?

BRINGING IT HOME

1. Based on the message and LifeGroup Study this week, what is one adjustment or change you sense that God is prompting you to make? How can you put that into action?
2. Please continue to carve out 10-15 min each week to share your Life Journal entry from this past week.
Suggestion: Consider taking turns sharing your Life Journal each week and allow others to respond to your entry.

