**Growth Group Sermon Questions:**

**May 30th, 2021**

**For the Least of These**

**Matthew 25:31-46**

1. Jon said the harsh words and phrases that are used in the four (4) parables found in Matthew 24:42-51 to Matthew 25 are given because judgment, punishment, and consequences are a reality, and these words are meant to shock disciples of Jesus into waking up and moving out. In what ways do you believe God is calling our church to wake up and move out in our time and context? How do you sense God inviting you to participate in this?
2. **Read Matthew 25:1-13.** 
   1. Have you ever been at an event (for instance, a wedding reception or a party) that you wished your loved ones were present at? What was this event? What was the purpose of the event? What made the event so special?
   2. As believers we should all have the perpetual desire to find ourselves in the will of God. What are some practices that your group can engage in together that will help you to be in and remain in the center of God’s will?
3. **Read Matthew 25:14-30.**
   1. One key hermeneutic[[1]](#footnote-1) that we were encouraged to remember this week is, “*our neighbours, the people around us, the people in this world who need to hear the Gospel, need us to move forward in the Kingdom of Heaven with this message to be able to share the Gospel with our lives, with our words, with our actions, so that many more will be able to come into God’s Kingdom and receive His reward*.”
   2. As a group, discuss who God might be calling you to share the Gospel message with. Take a few moments to pray for this individual or the group of people who God has placed on your heart. Encourage each other to commit to communicating the love of God with these people.
4. **Read Matthew 25:31-46.**
   1. The word for “blessing” used in this passage is a term that “*describes God’s outpouring of His “blessing” as a consecration on His people. It refers to God pouring out his “blessing” as in His favour on His people. It is a blessing that includes God’s presence. A special power being imparted on someone. Jesus uses this word during the “Last Supper,” and Scripture describes Mary, the mother of Jesus, in this way; “Mary, blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.” Those who God has gathered in His flock, those He has gathered into His Kingdom, He now bestows favour upon them. He pours out great blessing. This is the reward that has been talked about in the four (4) parables, and this is the reward that awaits us. This is reward is given to those who have been–and are–about God’s work. This favour is given to us by the Holy Spirit so that we can go about His work, by His power, for His purpose, and His glory.*”
   2. How does the reality of this truth bring encouragement to your mind, body, and soul? How does it inspire you to give God your all?
   3. How does it affect your internal motivation to engage in God’s Kingdom work in the world? In what ways do you sense the Holy Spirit empowering you to do this Kingdom work?
5. Think of some ways that your group can participate and engage in the list below together through the power of the Holy Spirit and through love.
   1. ***List that provides insight on how we can be God’s sheep (Matthew 25:35-37)***:
      1. *Care and love the hungry in our midst.*
      2. *Care and love the strangers in our midst.*
      3. *Care and love the vulnerable.*
      4. *Care and love the sick*
      5. *Care and love the captives.*

1. “Biblical hermeneutics is the study of the principles and methods of interpreting the text of the Bible.” – *GotQuestions.org*: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Biblical-hermeneutics.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)