

VBC
Pastor Randy Archer
Matthew 25:31-46
March 1-2, 2008

“We Must Be a Community that Serves”

“What you do to the least of these, you do to Me.” –Jesus

Remember where we have been
Who we are...
-Body of Gifts/ministries
-Love
-Healing

>A community of faith

Today – take a step further into who we are TO BE
We're gifted, we're connected, we love, we pray for each other, etc...

*We must be a community that serves.

Why?

Jesus served and gave His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:42-45)
Scripture clearly shows us that we are to do service.

STORY – Lawrence of Arabia & I

-Portland homeless connect – homeless guy, ‘you should go get assistance’
-weeks later, new to me car = needed new coffee cup to fit in my new to me car’s coffee cup holder
-same dude, where to park? Avoid him? He won’t remember me. He does. Smells really bad.
-‘did you get help?’ some food, can I get some orange juice?
-my reaction = to cost of OJ (how much \$ for cost of plastic coffee cup?)
-give OJ, remind him of help around, ‘unless you want to be out here?’ yes, I do. Shake hands.
-get coffee, back in car (no new cup) = perplexed.
-Tool on the radio – God is lame and the world should drown
-What a contrast = song lyrics v. ‘yeah, I like to be out here’

>began a change in me. Opened my eyes to something I tried to pass by.

Started to bring together who I am with what I am to do.

(slide 1)

READ – Matt 25:31-46

Pray.

What a text!

Some things to notice as we look into this passage

- He is talking to His disciples – His followers = us. Against the spirit of religion.
- Christ is the judge – seated on throne (completion) – knows us inside & out.
- All nations = everyone
- He will separate to approval or condemnation (not a pastor, not your parents, not a denomination)

(slide 2)

“The imagery here provides a memorable illustration of the final division of people who have up to that point lived together indistinguishably. To other people (and even to themselves) the saved and the lost look very similar – it takes the expertise of the King to know which is which.”

R.T. France

>So let's explore the passage...

--- Christ looks at the sheep and says...

READ 34

- blessed = someone who enjoys the favor of the Lord
- kingdom = given authority, shared authority with Christ
- prepared since the world's creation – not an afterthought

Amazing reward...

--- And here is why you get this inheritance....

(slide 3)

READ 35-36

I was...	=	you....
Hungry	=	fed Me
Thirsty	=	gave Me drink
Stranger	=	invited Me in
Naked	=	clothed Me
Sick	=	cared for Me
In prison	=	visited Me

---Sheep's response

READ 37-39

- they didn't know = they were just doing (engaged, involved, serving)

--- Jesus' answer

READ 40

*The distinguishing marker is service.

(slide 4)

Service

Servant

Serving

Provision

Help

Assistance

Use

Benefit

Advantage

Good turn

>The God of the Universe sits on His throne, welcoming His sheep, His followers, into their reward, prepared for them since the foundation of the world.

WHY?

Service.

>What we did / what we do

To the least

The ignored

The overlooked

Smelly, weird, strange

Neighbors (sometimes smelly and weird)

Strangers

What we do to these, we do to Jesus.

--- then Jesus looks to the goats

READ 41

- where the sheep are blessed, the goats are cursed
- instead of a kingdom, goats get eternal fire

>you are cursed and condemned...

Why?

READ 42-43

- what you didn't do

---goat's response

READ 44

- they didn't know, they just didn't do anything when they saw the need/opportunity/etc...

---Jesus' Answer

READ 45

(slide 5)

The fault of the cursed is not that they have done wrong, but they have failed to do right

>surfing analogy (slide 6)

-starting to where I am today

Get out if lucky, try to catch/get pounded, finally start to stand – eventually go straight on your feet – finally paddle in & ride the wave – shoulder, energy, action, the place of opportunity, where things happen.

>this is where the followers of Christ should always be

-on the shoulder

-where the energy of the wave is – the cutting edge

-where the movement is

-where the possibilities are

STORY – Mike and Sam in Portland

(slide 7)

READ 114-115. book: Under the Overpass

What you do to the least of these, you do to Jesus

-→SO WHAT?

What are we to do as individuals? As a community of faith?

Village:

PRM / D&AM / Bridgetown / Adopt-A-Class / Community Care

April 26 & 27 = Community Connections Expo = opportunities to engage, be involved

Individually: (3x5 cards)

Write these ?'s down...

?What will this cost me?

?What will I gain?

?Where must I **BE** Jesus?

?Where must I **SEE** Jesus?

Story – Charles Grisby – after Rob Bell, Safeway, diapers, ensure and some food)
(Don't pick up a homeless person late at night downtown)

READ

The Message, Matt 25:40

Pray

Worship