

# Call to Compassion

## *Parable of the Sheep and the Goats*

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# What We Will Learn

- Describes God's call to compassion
- Parable of the sheep and the goats
- Consistent with God's purpose
- Of mutual provider-receiver relationships
- Describes rewards and punishment
- Answer call and earn blessing
- Decline call and incur punishment
- Matthew 25:31–46

# Three Related Parables in Matthew 25

- Parable of the ten virgins
- Matthew 25:1–13 [Not read in session]
- Always be prepared
- To give account of your performance
- As God's provider assistant
- Parable not in scope for this session

# Three Related Parables in Matthew 25

- Parable of the talents
- Matthew 25:14–30 [Not read in session]
- Grow and diversify your capabilities
- Increase your range and resources
- To accept assignments
- As God's provider assistant
- Parable not in scope for this session

# Three Related Parables in Matthew 25

- Parable of the sheep and the goats
- Matthew 25:31–46 [Read in this session]
- Defines provider assistant responsibilities
- In terms of basic needs
- Earn blessing for obedience
- Incur punishment for disobedience
- Parable is the focus of this session

# God will Judge Every Person as Provider Assistant

- At time of judgement
- Will separate people into two categories
- People that accept call to compassion
  - Provide service placed in their path
- People that decline call to compassion
  - Deny service placed in their path
- Matthew 25:31–33

## **Matthew 25 (NIV)**

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.

32 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.

33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

# Responsibilities of God's Provider Assistant

- The assignment
  - Call to compassion
  - Provide a service to address a need
- Recognize assignment
- Provide the service effectively
- To the best of your ability
- Described in terms of basic needs
- Matthew 25:35–36

## Matthew 25 (NIV)

35 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,

36 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.'

# Basic Needs

- Illustrates provider assistant responsibilities
- Every human need composed of basic needs
- Physical basic needs
  - Food and drink
  - Clothing
  - Shelter
- Non-physical basic needs
  - Protection
  - Community values

# Free or for Fee

- To respond to a call to compassion
- May provide
- Free service
- Or for-fee service
- To address a need
- Free service adequate
- If provided with pure heart—  
only motivation is to provide for the need

# For Fee Service

- Adequate if provided with pure heart
- Fee needed to provide service effectively
- Fair (non-exploitative) fee for fair service
- Parable of talents
  - Increasing value
  - Through enterprise (for-fee service)
- Example of for-fee service: Jacob-Laban interactions on labor and wages

# Provider Assistant Tools

- Parable of the talents
  - God grants capabilities to each person
  - Deploy your capabilities
  - Rewarded if you grow/diversify
    - Grow – increase your value
    - Diversify – increase variety of deployment
  - Punished if you choose stagnation
- Extend your tools to be more effective

# Needy Receiver of Service

- Any person in need of the target service
- Is the needy
- And is weaker than the provider assistant
- Irrespective of social class or status
- Mutual receiver-provider relationship
- Sometimes receiver, sometimes provider
- Matthew 25:37–40

## Matthew 25 (NIV)

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’

38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?’

39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

## Matthew 25 (NIV)

40 “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.’”

# Reward for Obedience

- Fulfill your assignment
- As God's provider assistant
- Earn blessing each time
- Accumulate treasures in heaven
- Banking blessings
- Matthew 25:34 & 46

## **Matthew 25 (NIV)**

34 “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.’

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

# Denial of Service

- Decline a call to provide service
- Incur punishment each time
- Condemned to eternal fire
- Prepared for devil and his angels
- Matthew 25:41–46

## Matthew 25 (NIV)

41 “Then he will say to those on his left,  
‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the  
eternal fire prepared for the devil and his  
angels.

42 For I was hungry and you gave me  
nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me  
nothing to drink,

## Matthew 25 (NIV)

43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

## Matthew 25 (NIV)

45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’”

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

# Accumulation of Blessing and Punishment

- Earned blessing is a promise from God
- Incurred punishment is a promise from God
- Both coexist in parallel (parallel “banks”)
- Don’t trade-off against each other
- God fulfills his promise without condition
- God may forgive promise of punishment
- If sinner repents truly
- He will fulfill promise of blessing

# Be Prepared

## (Parable of the Ten Virgins)

- Fill your “bank of blessing”
- Empty your “bank of punishment”
- Obey God’s call to compassion
- Provide services placed on your path
- God’s provider assistant
- “Good Samaritan”
- Like Joseph Scriven  
of Hope (Ontario, Canada: Late 1800s)

# What We Learned

- Call to compassion
- Parable of the sheep and the goats
- Two categories of people at judgment
- People that obey call to compassion
  - Will inherit eternal life in kingdom of God
- People that disobey call to compassion
  - Will incur eternal punishment in fiery furnace
- Blessing may coexist with punishment