



## Individual Responsibility in Call to Compassion

*Living in the Image of God*  
*Module 04 Session 03*

Banking Blessings Ministry  
San Antonio, Texas  
USA



## Living in the Image of God

- God creates every person to represent him in interactions with others
- Be for others what God would be for them if he lived with us in human form
- He provides resources for people to perform the responsibilities
- He blesses those that do

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## Living in the Image of God

- Program seeks to understand
- Meaning of *Living in the Image of God*
- Resources God has provided to guide us
- Human responsibilities
- Benefits of *Living in the Image of God*

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## What We Will Learn

- Parable of the Sheep and the Goats
- Christ defines individual responsibility in call to compassion
- Recognize the need and needy
- Care about the needy
- Commit to contributing to alleviate the need
- Persevere in seeking to contribute
- Matthew 25:31–46

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## Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

- Christ describes binary categorization of people at final judgment
- Based on responding to opportunities to provide goods or service to benefit others in need
- Describes opportunity in terms of basic needs: food and drink, shelter, clothing, and community values

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## The Righteous

- The righteous recognize the need and provide goods or service to alleviate the need
- They recognize the need and needy
- Care about the needy
- Commit to doing what they can to alleviate the need
- Persevere in providing goods or service to alleviate the need
- Like the Samaritan in the Parable of the Good Samaritan
- Matthew 25:31–36

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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.

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

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.

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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.’

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- The others—not-righteous category—refuse to contribute to alleviate the need
- Either they fail to recognize the need
- Or they recognize but refuse to do what they can to alleviate the need
- Like the Levite and Priest in the Parable of the Good Samaritan
- Matthew 25:41–43

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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,

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.’

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- Christ used the parable to provide message of people serving God through other people
- He categorizes as righteous
- People that serve God by providing goods or service to benefit other people in need
- Matthew 25:37–40

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### 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?’

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.’

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### Declining Request to Serve God

- Christ used the parable to explain that a person declines a call to serve God by declining assistance to another person in need
- He categorizes as not-righteous
- People that refuse to serve God by refusing to provide goods or service to benefit others in need
- Matthew 25:44–45

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### Matthew 25 (NIV)

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?’

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.’

- “the least of these brothers and sisters of mine” ⇒ “the needy”

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### Individual Responsibility

- Christ defines the individual responsibility in a call to compassion by describing what God expects of the call recipient
- **A Call to Compassion:** an opportunity to provide goods or service to benefit a person less able
- **The Needy:** the person that has a need but is less able to provide for the need (intended beneficiary in a call to compassion)

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### Individual Responsibility cont'd

- Recognize the need and needy
- Care about the needy
- Commit to contributing to alleviate the need
- Persevere in seeking to contribute
- Recognize → care → commit → persevere
- God sent the same message through Prophet Isaiah several generations earlier
- Isaiah 58:7–9

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### Isaiah 58 (NIV)

- God’s message through Prophet Isaiah
- Fasting as an act of worship
- What God expects of those that worship him

7 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?

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### Isaiah 58 (NIV)

8 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.

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

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### More Complex Need

- Christ describes the individual responsibility in terms of basic needs
- Message applies to every need
- Complex needs can be disaggregated into basic needs
- Focus on contributing as your heart leads you
- Irrespective of the complexity of the need

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### Beneficiary Responsibility

- Christ describes the individual responsibility of the call recipient: person that God calls to provide goods or service to alleviate a need
- Individual responsibility of the beneficiary
- To receive the provided goods and service with appreciation
- Will be discussed in a future bible study in this series

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### What We Learned

- Individual responsibility in a call to compassion
- Recognize the need and needy
- Care about the needy
- Commit to contributing to alleviate the need
- Persevere in seeking to contribute
- Recognize → care → commit → persevere
- Based on Christ teaching in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats
- And God's message through Prophet Isaiah

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# Individual Responsibility in Call to Compassion

## Living in the Image of God M04S03

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Christ teaching in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats and an earlier message through Prophet Isaiah provide an understanding of the individual responsibility in a call to compassion. When God directs a person to an opportunity to provide goods or service to benefit others in need, he calls the person to recognize the need, care about the needy, commit to contributing goods or service to alleviate the need, and persevere in seeking to contribute. He promises blessing for those that complete their responsibility in a call to compassion but punishment for those that decline theirs.

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We discuss Christ teaching in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31–46) and an earlier message through Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 58:7–9) to understand the individual responsibility in a call to compassion. As we discuss in previous studies (e.g., [Responsibility in Call to Compassion](#)), a call to compassion is when God directs a person's attention to the need of another person less able to provide for the need. Through the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Christ defines the individual responsibility in a call to compassion: recognize the need and needy, care about the needy, be motivated by care to commit to contributing goods or service to alleviate the need, and persevere in seeking to contribute.

He uses the parable to provide a message of people serving God by serving other people. He categorizes as righteous, people that serve God by providing goods or service to benefit other people in need: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" [Matthew 25:40]. Also, he uses the parable to explain that a person declines a call to serve God when he or she declines assistance to another person in need: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me" [Matthew 25:45]. Regarding a call to compassion, the phrase "the least of these" means the needy (i.e., a person that has a need but is less able to provide for the need).

God promises blessing for those that complete their responsibility in a call to compassion: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world" [Matthew 25:34] (also, see his promise in Isaiah 58:8–9). In contrast, he promises punishment for the others (i.e., those that decline responsibility in a call to compassion): "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" [Matthew 25:41].

## Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Christ describes the binary categorization of people at final judgment, as righteous or others (not-righteous); based on how they respond to opportunities to provide goods or service to benefit other people in need. He describes the opportunities in terms of basic needs: such as food and drink, shelter, clothing, and community interactions.

### The Righteous

He categorizes as righteous those that recognize the need and provide goods or service to alleviate the need. That means they recognize the need and needy, care about the needy, are motivated by care to commit to contributing goods or service as they can to alleviate the need,

and persevere in seeking to contribute: “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, 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 25:35-36]. Further, Christ uses the Samaritan in the Parable of the Good Samaritan to illustrate the typical response of the righteous in a call to compassion (Luke 10:33–35).

## **The Others**

The others consist of people that refuse to do what they can to alleviate a need that God has directed to them. Either they fail to recognize the need, or they recognize but refuse to contribute as they can: “For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 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” [Matthew 25:42-43]. Christ categorizes them as not-righteous. Further, he uses the Levite and the Priest in the Parable of the Good Samaritan to illustrate their response (Luke 10:31–32).

## **Serving God through People**

Christ uses the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats to provide a message of people serving God by serving other people. He categorizes as righteous, people that serve God by providing goods or service to benefit other people in need: “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” [Matthew 25:40]. Also, he uses the parable to explain that a person declines a call to serve God when he or she declines assistance to another person in need: “Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me” [Matthew 25:45].

## **Complexity of the Need**

In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Christ describes a call to compassion in terms of basic needs: food and drink, shelter, clothing, and community interactions. He explains the individual responsibility by pairing each need with the goods or service provided to alleviate the need (e.g., “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat”). To understand better, each of the statements of need and what was done to alleviate the need (Matthew 25:35–36) can be paraphrased as: I directed your attention to a need and you did what you could to alleviate the need.

The need could be basic, as the examples he uses in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats; or more complex, such as the need of the man beaten by robbers in the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30–35). His message of individual responsibility applies to every need, because even complex needs can be disaggregated into basic needs. Therefore, in every case, focus on contributing as your heart leads you, irrespective of the complexity of the need.

## **Message of Compassion through Isaiah**

Several generations before he came to human life as Christ, God sent a message through Prophet Isaiah that human-to-human compassion is more important to him than people tearing themselves up in fasting: “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” [Isaiah 58:7]? The message essentially is that an act of compassion is

more important to God than fasting. Further, the message added that he rewards a person for doing what they can to alleviate the needs of others less able than they [Isaiah 58:8–9]: “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. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: ‘Here am I.’”

## **Individual Responsibility**

Christ defines the individual responsibility in a call to compassion by describing what God expects of the call recipient. A call to compassion means that God directs a person to an opportunity to provide goods or service to benefit a person less able. The needy is a person that has a need but is less able to provide for the need, i.e., the intended beneficiary in a call to compassion.

In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Christ describes the individual responsibility of the call recipient: recognize the need and needy, care about the needy, be motivated by care to commit to contributing goods or service to alleviate the need, and persevere in seeking to contribute. That is: recognize, care, commit, and persevere. God rewards those that complete their individual responsibility in a call to compassion. He punishes those that decline theirs.

## **Summary of What We Learned**

Christ teaching in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats and an earlier message through Prophet Isaiah provide an understanding of the individual responsibility in a call to compassion. When God directs a person to an opportunity to provide goods or service to benefit others in need, he calls the person to recognize the need, care about the needy, commit to contributing goods or service to alleviate the need, and persevere in seeking to contribute. He promises blessing for those that complete their responsibility in a call to compassion but punishment for those that decline theirs.

**Key Words:** Care, Compassion, Individual Responsibility, Isaiah, Righteous, Serving God through People, Sheep and the Goats,