

ActNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Connect Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Connect Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

Parable of the Talents and Stewardship: The Sheep and The Goats

Matthew 25:31 – 46

Rev Adrian Ng

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- This parable gives another dimension regarding how God will judge us upon the Return of Jesus Christ. Firstly, God will judge *everyone* (vs.32), for the Lord is the sovereign, living, holy, righteous and just Creator God. Hence, all nations and all peoples throughout the history of man will be judged by Him.

Secondly, God will judge each person who calls Jesus, "Lord," based on *how* we respond to human and societal need with what He has entrusted to us – as an individual, and as a church. Goats have unruly and rebellious traits and they represent those who do not respond to human and societal need as Jesus, our King and Master requires, while sheep being docile, gentle creatures and knows the shepherd's voice and responds to him represent disciples who do the will of their King, Master and Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

- Disciples, God's faithful, model our Shepherd to bring good news to the lost.
Why does Jesus teach us to reach out to the last, the least and the lost?
 - ✓ This is because God has chosen for people, especially pre-believers, to encounter Him and His love through us, His disciples! We are the Body of Jesus' Christ, His hands & His feet.
 - ✓ Moreover, we have first encountered Jesus and have been experiencing His boundless, steadfast, unconditional love, and amazing grace and faithfulness personally and repeatedly. And when we show the same love, grace and compassion Jesus extended to us, we are following and modelling Jesus in heart, mind, hands, and life.
 - ✓ Jesus plainly said in verse 40 that when we help the least, last and lost, *we are helping Him directly!* Jesus also warns us that when we do not help these ones, we are not helping Him.

How do we reach out to the last, the least and the lost?

- ✓ *Extend* hospitality to strangers & the poor in simple practical ways like provide food, drink, clothing, give our attention to them, acknowledge them, smile to them, not be fearful of them & instead, extend our friendship to them, etc, in Jesus' name and with His compassion.
- ✓ *Go* to those in need when they cannot come to the Shepherd or Church. As disciples of Jesus, we represent the Great Shepherd, His love, hope and good news, and we bridge the gap of separation between Jesus and these ones in our families, church, society and the nations.
- ✓ *Help* generously and *do not be* calculative with what God has entrusted to us – whether in terms of time, talents or treasure (money) – because God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7) and we give and help from the posture of joyful obedience. Let us give like Jesus!
- We are duly warned about *going through motion* in our Christian life – for example, attending church, participating in Connect Group, reading the Bible, praying, say all the right things, etc. For on Judgement Day, the fakes will be separated from the faithful disciples who believe in God *wholeheartedly*, worship, love and trust Him *wholly*. The fakes will be sent to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, while the faithful inherit the kingdom. What is our response to God's

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Word today? Will we choose to repent and live for Jesus? Will we choose to continue to live faithfully for Him alone?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RELATE

1. What are some responses you observe from people when they walk past a beggar, or someone who is wearing dirty, shabby and smelly clothes and lives off the bag he/she is carrying, or someone with special needs?

REFLECT

2. Read the following Scripture passages and share with your CG what the Word of God says about societal matters and our discipleship in Jesus.

[Verses to help us go deeper: Isaiah 58:6-7; Luke 4:18; Matthew 5:16]

RESPOND

3. Share with your CG one specific way you are willing to grow in responding to a societal need with what He has entrusted to you. At the next CG meeting, share how it went.

PRAYER POINTERS

- Praise God that not only did God give us the right to be His beloved children, but God also gave us the privilege to be like Him and to serve others like Him with compassion, grace and generously.
- Pray for yourself, your CG and TPMC to respond to human and societal needs with what He has entrusted to us – as *an individual* disciple, and as *a church* – so that we will be prepared, ready and judged as His sheep (not goats) on the day when Jesus returns.

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

“And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” [Matthew 25:40]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Refer to TPMC's website or Sunday Bulletin for the details regarding:

- Donation to Project Tribute
- Outreach Sundays on 22 & 29 August 2026
- Serving opportunities in Outreach and Social Concerns, and Missions