



Let Your Actions Speak: Matthew 25:31-46

1. Is the second coming something you ever think about, read about, hear about, and talk about? What emotions/feelings does the subject evoke in you?
2. Read Matthew 25:31-46? What challenges, surprises, encourage or shocks you in this passage? What sorts of questions does it raise?
3. What are Jesus' criteria for allowing the sheep to inherit the kingdom? Does this surprise you? Discuss the difference between "salvation by works" and the "good works" God calls us to, as his followers (refer also to Eph.2:8-10 and Jam.2:14-26).
4. For whom are the six actions mentioned by Jesus ultimately done? Why do neither the 'sheep' nor the 'goats' get this? Why are they so surprised? Does this knowledge change the way you think or behave?
5. Who do you think Jesus is referring to in verse 40? Is Jesus just speaking about those who are in the body of Christ here? Is Galatians 6:10 helpful? Do our 'actions speak' in the way we care for those in our church family who are in need?
6. The Bible refers to God's heart for the poor and the needy frequently. Do you think that this theme is talked about enough in the church or has it been somewhat overlooked? How can we live with a greater awareness that as we serve others, and care for the needy, we are really serving Jesus?
7. Consider King Jesus as you read Phil 2:5-11 and his manifesto in Luke 4:18-19, how do these verses motivate us to serve the poor and those in need, living the kingdom of God, as we wait for the King's return.
8. If Jesus came in his glory today, how might he evaluate your life based on this story? How are you being called to respond? Share together and pray and support one another through the coming week.