

I APPRECIATE YOU

Introduction

This Scripture is taken from a longer passage about the kingdom of God. Jesus had been teaching his disciples about when the kingdom would come and who would be invited. He ends with this passage about "the sheep and the goats." Listen to the passage. Then move into groups of 4 and discuss the questionnaire.

- What little prize from the past have you kept because it was special to you?
- Thinking about this parable Jesus told, how would you feel if you were placed in the group of sheep?

<input type="checkbox"/> surprised	<input type="checkbox"/> grateful
<input type="checkbox"/> overjoyed	<input type="checkbox"/> relieved
<input type="checkbox"/> unworthy	
- How would you feel if you were placed in the group of goats?

<input type="checkbox"/> surprised	<input type="checkbox"/> angry
<input type="checkbox"/> terrified	<input type="checkbox"/> guilty
- What person has always been there for you when you needed them?

<input type="checkbox"/> my mother	<input type="checkbox"/> another family member
<input type="checkbox"/> my father	<input type="checkbox"/> a close friend
<input type="checkbox"/> both of my parents	<input type="checkbox"/> a neighbor
<input type="checkbox"/> my brother / sister	<input type="checkbox"/> no one
<input type="checkbox"/> a grandparent	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
- What kind of people do you have the most compassion for?

<input type="checkbox"/> homeless	<input type="checkbox"/> sick or disabled
<input type="checkbox"/> starving	<input type="checkbox"/> elderly
<input type="checkbox"/> lonely	<input type="checkbox"/> prisoners
<input type="checkbox"/> refugees	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS

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

³²All 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. ³³He 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.

³⁵For 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, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

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? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

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. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I 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?'

⁴⁵"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, 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."

Matthew 25:31-46



6. When was the last time you did something for someone hungry, alone, poor, sick or imprisoned?
7. If Jesus were to come today and evaluate your life, what would he say about how you have "looked after" him by caring for others?
- ☐ "You're doing great!"
 - ☐ "You're doing a lot better than you used to."
 - ☐ "You used to do much better."
 - ☐ "You're doing the best you can."
 - ☐ "You're in big trouble!"

8. How would you rate this group on taking care of each other when someone is hurting or in need?

- ☐ I think we do a pretty good job.
- ☐ We are learning.
- ☐ We have a long way to go.
- ☐ We don't talk about these things.
- ☐ We really don't have any needs.

9. Think of this group as a community of love in which all of you are hurting in some way, and all of you are ministers in some way. Who would you nominate for special recognition for the following gifts of caring? Read the first category and let everyone nominate someone.

I was hungry and you gave me
something to eat: Your sharing of yourself in this group has caused me to grow.

I was thirsty and you gave me
something to drink: Your spiritual life and devotion to God has helped me find spiritual refreshment.

I was a stranger and you invited me in: Your welcome when I came made me feel at home.

I needed clothes and you
clothed me: Your caring when I felt vulnerable and alone made me feel that somebody understands me.

I was sick and you looked
after me: Your reaching out to me when I was really down caused me to feel better and whole again.

10. What is one need you would like the group to pray about?