

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Revolutionary Love

Week 6: Love Isn't Optional
Matthew 25:35-46

Week of November 21, 2021
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Our series on Jesus' teaching on love ends with a call to love "the least of these." The marginalized of society are of such importance to Jesus, that when we love them, we love Him.

Kicking it off: What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?

Discussion:

1. Reread Matthew 25:31-33

"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.

We will all be there on the day described in these verses. What do you think you will be feeling in that moment?

2. Reread Matthew 25:34-36

"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. 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."

In this passage, Jesus claims to be six different suffering people. What do all six have in common?

3. Reread Matthew 25:40

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."

What does this verse tell us about Jesus (the king)?

4. Reread Matthew 25:41

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."

What does this verse tell us about hell?

5. These verses seem to teach that we can earn a spot in heaven by loving the marginalized. Other scriptures reveal that salvation is a gift of God given to all who trust in Christ. Reread John 13:35 (below) and explain how the verse resolves the tension created by Christ's teaching on the sheep and the goats.

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

6. How can the teaching on the sheep and goats help us to love others?

Wrapping It Up: Pray that God would help us to see Jesus in the eyes of the marginalized.