

## LIVING LIFE

### Matthew 25:31-46

People will not come to know Jesus by catchy slogans or empty prayers. People will not come to know God's love by the music we sing, or the liturgy we use, or the particular set of rules we follow. People will not come to know Jesus from us doing a little good every now and then. People will come to know Jesus when their needs are met and they are loved unconditionally, and when they are told that this love comes from Jesus. People will come to know Jesus when they encounter us living as Jesus lived, in the daily grind and the times of crisis.

**Monday: Read Matthew 25:31-34.**

Do you think pausing to recognize that our actions have eternal significance impacts the way we interact with others? Why or why not?

*Practice Step:*

Write down the prayer, "Lord, help me see others the way You see them." One day this week, pray this prayer and then watch for an opportunity to serve someone—even in a small way—expecting to meet Jesus in him or her.

**Tuesday: Read Matthew 25:35.**

Where in your community do you see hunger—physical, emotional, or spiritual?  
How can you help meet the needs?

*Practice Step:*

Did you know that some who receive food from a food pantry don't have a can-opener?  
Purchase a can opener this week and donate it to the Clay Church Food Pantry.

**Wednesday: Read Matthew 25:35.**

Who in your life might feel like an outsider?  
How can you be intentional about making someone feel welcome?

*Practice Step:*

Introduce yourself to someone new at church, work, or in your neighborhood.  
Ask them to tell you their story. Take time to listen and make them feel valued.

**Thursday: Read Matthew 25:36.**

How can you show love to those who are suffering physically, mentally, or emotionally?

*Practice Step:*

Reach out to someone who is sick, struggling with mental health, or grieving. Send a message, make a call, or offer practical help, like running errands or preparing a meal.

**Friday: Read Matthew 25:36.**

Who do you know who feels isolated or forgotten?

How can you remind them that they are loved?

*Practice Step*

Write a letter or visit someone who might be feeling alone—whether it's someone in literal prison, a nursing home, or someone isolated by circumstances.

**Saturday: Read Matthew 25:37-45.**

If someone watched your daily life, would they see the love of Jesus in your actions?

How can you be more intentional about living out your faith?

*Practice Step*

Write down three small ways you can reflect Jesus' love every day—whether through kindness, generosity, or simply noticing those in need. Commit to practicing them.

In Matthew 25, Jesus is teaching on the Mount of Olives and begins a discourse on the end times. He emphasizes the importance of being ready, and then unpacks what being ready looks like: faithful service. He shares the illustration of the sheep and the goats, making a powerful and radical claim. “I am not just encouraging you to love others, I am telling you that I am in the poor, the hungry, the stranger, the sick, and the imprisoned.” Being a follower of Jesus isn't just about knowing what is right but doing it. People will come to know Jesus when they experience His love through us, which means that reaching more people with the love of Jesus can't happen without us seeing and meeting the needs of the others.

**In every moment of every day, you can tell the story of Jesus through every word and every action.**