

# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together



Matthew 25:31-46  
English Standard Version



**R A D I C A L   T O G E T H E R**



RADICAL TOGETHER

# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

- Following Christ means being active in meeting the needs of a suffering world
- In a world where suffering is rampant, we want to proclaim the Gospel to all peoples/nations
- What is the Gospel?
- The Good News that Jesus saves from our spiritual poverty; how?
- The incarnation, His sacrifice, His resurrection; us?
- We must live incarnationally, meeting the suffering in their need



# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

-MATTHEW 25:31-33



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# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

- Why is there anything in the New Testament about judgment?
- Who I am and what I do matter to God
- So men will come to Christ
- Christ is the Judge and Shepherd, separating all into two groups
- On what basis?



# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

<sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'



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<sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup>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 34-40 TEXT



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# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

- 4 characters in this story:
- Judge / Sheep / Goats / Least of these
- How are they separated (sheep and goats)?
- Sheep are blessed and righteous
- Christ means truly righteous with God's righteousness





# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

- Doesn't this teach that you get to heaven/God by social causes or kindness?
- Only if you make verses 35-36 the qualifier
- Verse 34 is the qualifier – blessed
- You come into Christ's Kingdom because you're blessed and its obvious by your actions



# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

- It's not monumental or spectacular acts
- It's day to day simple grace acts that show genuine salvation
- Each of these is a practical response to needs
- We can be overwhelmed by the difficulty and enormity of the needs; it's not easy!
- Neither was God loving us
- Our church asks a lot - willing hearts and working hands



# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

- Verse 40 - Who are Christ's brothers?
- Believers
- Christ says the evidence of your salvation is how you treat needy believers



# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

<sup>41</sup>"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'



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<sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

-MATTHEW 25:41-46



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# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

- What is the goat's problem?
- Accursed
- They reject Christ so they reject the least of these
- They can do good things, but it's not from their nature
- Selfish and self-love
- Goats can hang out with sheep, but a professed faith is untrue unless these works are increasingly natural



# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

- The least of these; what are you doing? What are we doing?
- Jenny Lane / McAllen / Uganda
- Will Christians look back at us in 150 years the way we look back at Christian slaveholders?
- How does my Christianity effect my world?
- If every Christian lived like me, what would the world look like?



# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

- This doesn't have to be difficult, but it will be radical
- Living within income
- Living for needs instead of wants
- See our stuff as a trust instead of a horde
- If you could double your income, how would you care for the needy?
- Live like that now!



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# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

- Make a list of these major categories
- How are you meeting needs in each one?
- The ones right around us?



# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

- Are your heart and mind conformed to God's and His love for suffering and needy?
- God, how can I take my material blessings and help others?
- God, expose my blindspots in these areas
- If you were sorted by how you treat the needy, which group would you be in?



# Caring for the Suffering Radically Together

- Are you a Christ follower?
- Are you a Christ follower, but lacking here?
- How can you better care for believers?
- What obstacles are there for you?

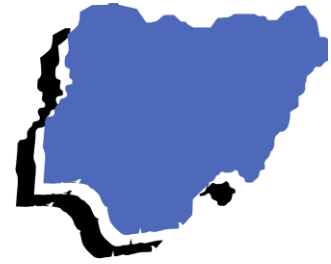


**R A D I C A L   T O G E T H E R**

Talk to your Muslim Friend  
Oct 16 & 23 @ 9 AM  
RSVP @ the Resource Cntr



# Africa Meeting



Mark your calendars for

**UGANDA**

coming to you...

**SUMMER 2012**

Join us next Sunday for our first  
informational meeting!

See you there!

# TRUNK OR TREAT!

October 30<sup>th</sup> / 5-7 PM

Jenny Lane Trailer Park

Fall Party

HELP US PASS OUT FLYERS

NEXT SUNDAY, OCT 16!



McAllen Church-  
Wide Mission Trip  
December 28-31  
Come & find out  
more TODAY @  
12:30!