

Transformed with Others: Together for the Least of These

(Matthew 25:31-46)

Opening Discussion: How often do you consider the needs of the poor and outcast? Especially when they are Christians? Why do you think that the poor and the outcast are so near to God's heart?

Transformational Principle: _____ people do the work of God like it's _____ nature.

1. A day of _____ is coming for God's _____.
(Matthew 25: ___ - ___; ___)

For further discussion: How do you feel about God's coming day of judgement? Do you have confidence to stand before Jesus on that day? (See 1 John 2:28: What does John tell us about how we can remain confident on the day of judgement? Why should a true believer not live in fear of the day of judgement? How can you be sure that you are a sheep?)

Notes: _____

2. God's _____, by nature, care about the _____ of God.
(Matthew 25: ___ - ___)

For further discussion: Why are the sheep so surprised at Jesus' commendation of their works? What makes what they did and how they did so significant to their identity? (See John 13:35: Why do you think that Jesus so often stated what the actions of his true disciples would be like? What does this have to do with grace? What part does transformation play in the actions of believers?)

Notes: _____

3. It is _____ to have a false sense of your own _____.

(Matthew 25: ___ - ___)

For further discussion: What does Jesus say about the difference between the sheep and the goats? What observations can you make about the identity of the goats? (See Matthew 7:21-23: What does Jesus say about how to tell whether or not someone is a true believer? How do you reconcile Jesus' call to evaluate someone's fruit with the idea that we are saved by grace and not by works? How is your own fruit?)

Notes: _____

Response: Do you care about the _____ God cares about? How do you _____?

Transformational Principles

Week 1: Because we are prone to conform, we must let God transform. (Romans 12:1-2)

Week 2: Because of all Jesus has done, surrender what you think you know. (Mark 8:34-37)

Week 3: If we really want to know what to do, abandon the world's ways for God's ways. (Isaiah 55:6-11)

Week 4: Accept that the world's ways are at odds with the ways of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18-30)

Week 5: If you want to be transformed, you must learn to deal with your sinful nature. (Romans 8:1-11)

Week 6: Look past what is seen and believe what is unseen. (Hebrews 11:1-6)

Week 7: Overcome the world with love and humility. (Romans 12:9-21)

Week 8: Recognize that the purpose of our transformation is not personal or private. (Mark 10:42-45)

Week 9: Individual transformation happens best in the midst of united community. (Hebrews 10:19-25)

Week 10: Some may go and some may stay: but working together, God is transforming the world through the power of the gospel. (Philippians 4:10-20)