

Sermon Discussion Guide




“Judged By Mercy”

Matthew 25:31-46

Adam Jones, June 6 & 7, 2015

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Matthew 25:31-46. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 Adam began by talking about reality TV shows. What is your favorite reality TV show?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

THE MERCY OF JUDGMENT

- 3 Have you ever heard a harsh sermon on the judgment of God that was self-righteous and lacked humility?
- 4 The most common objection to judgment is that it contradicts God’s love. How would you respond to this objection? Why is it actually a good thing to have a God who gets angry?

- 5 How is the judgment of God actually a demonstration of his love and mercy?

THE MEASURE OF JUDGMENT

- 6 The sheep and the goats in the story were judged by the presence or lack of their deeds of mercy. Does this mean that salvation is not ultimately by grace alone?
- 7 What was the point of Adam's illustration about the girl who had clubbed feet who now helps raise money for other children in the third world with clubbed feet?
- 8 Do merciful deeds flow from the grace that you have received? There are simple, little opportunities to show mercy all around us every day. When was the last time you did a kind deed for the "least of these"? What kind deed could you do for someone this week?
- 9 Read and discuss the quote by Nicholas Kristof found on the inside cover of the bulletin.

THE SHOCK OF JUDGMENT

- 10 The truest measure of love is identification. How has Jesus identified with us? How did it make a difference in the life of Louis Zamperini (Unbroken)? How has it made a difference in your own life?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?