

You Did It for Me

Matthew 25:31-46; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 637-641



Dad wheeled the lawnmower out of the garage and lifted it into the back of the pickup. "Go get the rake and the push broom," he called to Matt.

"What's up?" Matt asked. "Why are you taking the lawnmower away?"

"I just found out that Mr. Hoyt is going into the hospital for surgery," Dad said. "So let's go over and mow his lawn. That will be one less thing for Mrs. Hoyt to worry about while her husband is recovering."

What do you think? Is that something Jesus would do?

Jesus sat on the soft green grass of the hillside. The breeze ruffled His hair, and He smiled as a butterfly danced through the air. It swooped close to His knees, and then sailed away.

The disciples shifted to more comfortable positions on the grass.

It had been a wonderful day. Jesus had taught them many things, and they never got tired of listening to Him. They watched Jesus, sitting quietly. They knew He had more stories to tell. They waited.

Jesus took a deep breath. He had something very important to say.



The Message

Taking care of those in need is like taking care of Jesus.

Memory Verse

"'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me' "

(Matthew 25:40, NIV).

He wanted to say it just right so the disciples would always remember it.

"When the Son of Man comes as King with all the angels," Jesus began, "He will sit upon His royal throne. All the people of the world will stand before Him. Then He will separate them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates his goats from his sheep."

The disciples nodded. They knew very well how shepherds separated their animals. They had seen it many times.

"The King will put the righteous people on His right side," Jesus went on. "The righteous people are His sheep. He will put the unrighteous people, the goats, on His left side.

"And then the King will turn and smile at those on His right hand. He will say to them, 'When I was hungry, you fed Me. When I was thirsty, you gave Me a cool drink. You invited Me into your home when I was a stranger. You gave Me clothes when I needed them. When I was sick, you took care of Me. You visited Me in prison. And now I want to thank you and give you the kingdom that has been prepared for you since the creation of the world.' "

Jesus stopped for a minute. The disciples leaned forward. Everybody was listening. Then He went on. "The righteous people will look wonderingly at the King and ask, 'When did we ever see You hungry or thirsty? When did we invite You into our homes? When did we give You clothes or visit You in prison?'

"And," Jesus said, "the King will answer them. 'Whenever you did one of those things for the least important person, you were doing it for Me! Because you did those kind things for My brothers and My sisters, you did them for Me.'

"Then the King will look sadly at the people on His left side," Jesus continued.

" 'You didn't feed Me when I was hungry,'

He will say. 'You didn't give Me anything to drink when I was thirsty. You didn't invite Me home or visit Me when I was sick and in prison.'

"And the people on the King's left side will shout. 'When did we ever see You hungry, or thirsty, or sick, or in prison and not help You?'

"The King will answer them, 'When you refused to help My brothers and sisters, You were refusing to help Me.' "

Jesus stopped. He so much wanted His disciples to understand what He was saying. He wanted them to learn to love each other the way He loved each one of them. And He wants us to learn that, too.





S A B B A T H

THINK

With your family, take a walk and collect small rocks. Separate them into two piles by either size, shape, or color. Find a quiet place and read your Bible lesson. When Jesus comes will He separate people by their size, shape, or color? How will He separate people?

DO

Teach your memory verse to your family.

S U N D A Y

READ

For family worship, read and discuss Matthew 25:31-46.

DO

Look at the picture you drew in Sabbath School (or draw one) of how you would help Jesus if He were on this earth. Plan how you and your family will help someone in the same way this week. Ask Jesus to help you plan.

DO

Say your memory verse together.

M O N D A Y

DO

Divide your family into sheep and goats. Have the sheep practice "baaaah" while the goats say a deeper "baaaaaah." Have them pretend they are animals and you are the shepherd separating them. Have each group tell what kind of people they represented in the Bible story.

THINK

Find a picture of a sheep and a goat in a book. How do they look alike? Different? When do you think a shepherd would need to separate his flock?

PRAY

Ask Jesus to help you carry out your plan to help someone this week.

T U E S D A Y

DO

For worship today, gather the following items: adhesive bandage, glass of water, food item, item of clothing, and picture of a smiling face. Put them on a table and have your family look at them for one minute. Then cover them with a towel and ask someone to name as many items as they can. When finished, uncover the items. Talk about how each is related to helping others.

SHARE

Think about someone you know who could use a friend. Do something this week to be friendly. Ask Jesus to help you.

DO

Review the memory verse.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ

During worship today, read Matthew 25:34-36 together.

THINK

How many times today did you see someone helping someone else? How did it make you feel? Did you help someone today? Tell about it.

SING

Sing "I Want to Be Ready" (Sing for Joy, No. 127).

PRAY

Ask Jesus to give you the kind of love for other people that He has.



T H U R S D A Y

READ With your family, read Matthew 25:37-39.

DO Talk about the various programs your church has to help others (Community Services, ADRA, prison ministry, feeding homeless, etc.). Plan a way your family can help with them. Ask Jesus to bless your plan.

SING Sing "We Are His Hands" (Sing for Joy, No. 129). Then say the memory verse together before prayer.

In Bible times, the right side was the side of honor. Left in this story meant no honor.



F R I D A Y

DO Act out the Bible story for worship with your family. Talk about ways your family helped others this week. Whom did you help? Who helped you? How did you feel?

SING Sing songs about helping. Say your memory verse together.

PRAY Thank Jesus that you can help Him by helping other people.

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for Me

PUZZLE

Directions: Unscramble the following words to find out the condition of those whom Jesus says will be helped by people preparing for His second coming.

g u y r h n

y t s i t r h



n s r g a t e r

c i k s

r o i r n p e s

GOOD NEIGHBOR

DIRECTIONS: Paul traveled to many communities to teach people about the living God. Like Paul, we can serve God when we help others. Pick a card each day and select one activity that you can do to be the best kind of neighbor. You can add your own ideas to the cards!

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR TO MY FAMILY:

- * Wash dishes.
- * Weed the garden.
- * Help my sister or brother clean their room.
- * Rake leaves.
- * Send a card to my grandparents.
- * Set the table for supper.
- * Get the mail.

- * _____
- * _____
- * _____



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR TO MY COMMUNITY:

- * Pick up litter.
- * Put up a bird feeder.
- * Offer to play with a neighbor's child while their parent works in the yard.
- * Run errands for an elderly neighbor.
- * Pick up things that a person drops.
- * See how many people I can greet with a smile.
- * Take clothing and canned food to the Adventist Community Services Center.

- * _____
- * _____



CARDS

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AT MY SCHOOL:

- * Respect my teacher by following the rules.
- * Offer to help a student with homework.
- * Volunteer to help clean my classroom.
- * Listen to a student who is sad.

- * _____
- * _____
- * _____
- * _____



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AT MY CHURCH:


- * Be on time for Sabbath School and worship.
- * Be reverent.
- * Offer a songbook to a visitor.
- * Greet people with a smile, especially those who are alone.
- * Offer help to someone who needs it.
- * Help pass out bulletins or other materials.
- * Invite an elderly person to sit with my family.

- * _____
- * _____
- * _____





My Memory Verses

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1. "Carry each other's burdens, and . . . you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2, NIV).
 2. "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for . . . some people have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2, NIV).
 3. "God . . . is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:27, NIV).
 4. "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11, NIV).
 5. "And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy" (Genesis 2:3, NIV).
 6. "Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God" (Daniel 6:10, NIV).
 7. "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions" (Daniel 6:22, NIV).
 8. "For he is the living God and he endures forever" (Daniel 6:26, NIV).
 9. " 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased' " (Matthew 3:17, NIV).
 10. " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart' . . . and 'Love your neighbor as yourself' " (Luke 10:27, NIV).
 11. "This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (Luke 15:24, NIV).
 12. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour" (Matthew 25:13, NIV).
 13. " 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me' " (Matthew 25:40, NIV).



SEVENTH-DAY
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CHURCH



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