



Learning, Living, and Giving the Good News of Jesus

Week 7: You Need To Get Out More

- SCRIPTURE TEXT: **Matthew 25:31-46**
- MEMORY VERSE: **Matthew 25:40**
- (RE)UNION CHAPTER: 11 (Next week chapter 12)
- HOMEWORK: Study Buddy Chat + the "Get Out" Challenge + Bruxy.com

APPETIZER: The Goal of the Gospel

Jesus is **God with us**, come to → GROUND

1. show us God's love,	}	GIFTS
2. save us from sin,		
3. set up God's kingdom, and		
4. shut down religion,		

so we can **share in** God's life. → GOAL

SOME QUALITIES OF "TRANSCENDERS"...

1. They are motivated by something beyond "their own skin".
2. They can be both more happy and more sad about the world.
3. They experience a positive correlation between knowledge and awe, mystery, humility, and reverence (unlike most people).
4. They find the world fascinating, like children, and "get hypnotized by the colors in a puddle, or by the raindrops dripping down a windowpane, or by the smoothness of skin, or the movements of a caterpillar." (Maslow)
5. They experience and express wholehearted "unconflicted" love.

TWO KINDS OF SELF-TRANSCENDENCE:

1. Connecting UP. (Mystical "Peak Experiences")
2. Connecting OUT. (Giving, Serving, Loving)

DINE IN: Paying Attention

Matthew 25:31-46

Who are "the nations" who are being separated into sheep and goats?

- a) Christians.
- b) Believing Christians (sheep) and non-Christians (goats).
- c) Non-Christians.

Who are "the least of these brothers and sisters of mine"?

- a) Any poor and needy people.
- b) Poor and needy Christians.
- c) Christian missionaries undergoing persecution.

Galatians 6:10; James 2:14-17; 1 John 4:20; 1 Corinthians 13:1-4; Colossians 3:1-3

LESSONS FROM THE SHEEP & GOATS

1. God takes sins of omission as seriously as sins of commission.
2. The sheep and the goats have never heard Jesus' story of the sheep and the goats. (They are likely all non-Christians who never heard the gospel.)
3. One way we serve Jesus is to love people practically when they are hurting. (Jesus didn't commend the sheep for serving the poor, but for serving *HIM*.)

TAKE OUT: Take the "Get Out" Challenge!

HOMEWORK! *This week, every day, in every interaction do this...*

1. **LOOK** around. (Get out of yourself, become aware.)
2. **LEARN** where the need is. (Micro and Macro.)
3. **LEAVE** your comfort zone. (Love is labour, non-love is laziness.)
4. **LOVE** like crazy. (The world has suffered from too much timidity.)
5. **LIVE** like you're serving Jesus. (Because you are!)

STUDY BUDDY MESSAGE SUMMARY:

- Psychologists tell us that people have a fundamental need to connect ourselves with something beyond ourselves.
- Even though God connects with us in various ways, Jesus is our ultimate connection with God, because he is God coming to us and bonding with our human struggles and hardships and joys and loves. He is Deity and humanity brought together in one life, and he teaches us how to experience intimacy with God.
- Jesus taught that when we serve others, especially those who are hurting, we are serving Jesus and connecting with God.
- One day, we'll be wrapped up in God's love without the distractions of this world, but for now we can experience a taste of that transcendence through prayer and meditation and especially by loving others in practical ways.

NEXT WEEK: (re)union conclusion... The "F" Word!

We conclude by talking about faith as the right response to the gospel.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Have you been tracking with the blog posts for this series at **bruxy.com**? Have they been helpful? Unhelpful? Something else? Let Bruxy know!
2. Review Sunday's message. Talk about something that stood out to you as an encouragement, challenge, disagreement, or question. (Take your time with this – there's lots to cover!)

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Matthew 25:31-46**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. What significance is there to the fact that neither the sheep nor the goats have ever heard of the story of the sheep and the goats?
 - c. What are some contemporary examples of how we might live out each of the six deeds of kindness that Jesus describes?
 - d. If Jesus were telling this story today, can you think of other deeds of kindness that he might add to the list?
 - e. Although Jesus' disciples are called to serve all hurting and helpless people, we are especially called to start with fellow believers in need (e.g., **Galatians 6:10**). Why do you think that is the case?
 - f. Review **verse 46**. What do you think the reward for the sheep and the punishment for the goats will be like? (If you can, use other Scripture references to support your answer.)
 - g. First take a moment to pray for God to awaken your mind to the opportunities you have around you to serve Jesus. Then take a few minutes to meditate on this passage, letting God bring specific people and/or ministry opportunities to mind that give you the chance to serve "the least of these brothers and sisters of mine". (Try circling every pronoun that refers to Jesus – "I", "Me", and "You" – while praying that Jesus shows you opportunities to serve HIM this week.)

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Did God show you any specific actions steps you should take this week in 3-f above? Is there any way your huddle can help you follow through?
5. Use your regular huddle questions. Also pray for your Study Buddies, and for yourselves, that you might continue grow in your understanding of and ability to communicate the gospel.

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Quotes

Welcome to part 7 in our series on Learning, Living, & Giving the Good News of Jesus! Today's message is about the goal of the gospel – sharing in God's love life!

Let's look at some New Covenant teaching about our amazing privilege of living beyond ourselves and in fellowship with God.

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
~ The Apostle Paul

Because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.
~ The Apostle Paul

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.
~ The Apostle Paul

As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.
~ The Apostle Paul

God has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature.
~ The Apostle Peter

Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.
~ Jesus

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.
~ Jesus