

A Truly Alive Heart (2/13/22)

Main Verses: Matthew 25:31-46

Key Verse: Matthew 25:40

'Takeaway': How we care for those most in need of care reveals if our heart really belongs to Jesus.

Getting Started: How do you determine if a person is good or not?

READ the main verses (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- Who is the Son of Man?
- When he comes, how will he come?
- How does Jesus describe helping other Christians in vs. 35-36?

Elementary:

- How will the Son of Man come again?
- What event/day is being described in this passage? How do you know?
- What criteria will the Shepherd use in separating the sheep from the goats?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- How we care about those in need, especially other Christians, reveals our hearts.
- God tells us we should care for those in need, as he has cared for us in our need.
- Those who do not care for the needy do not really belong to Jesus.

Elementary:

- When Jesus comes again, we will be judged by our actions and how we cared for those in need, especially fellow Christians.
- Jesus, the Good Shepherd will separate people into two groups—the goats, who ignore needy believers, and his sheep, who take care of needy believers.
- How we treat those in need, especially needy Christians, reveals our hearts, and whether or not we truly belong to Jesus.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, thanking him for his word and for teaching us how we should live. Thank him for taking care of you. Ask him to help you to grow in love for him and his people, and for everyone in your life. Ask him to help you think of a way you can help someone this week.

(Elementary) Talk to God, thanking him for sending his Son so you can know him and love him. Thank him for caring for you and providing for your needs. Ask him to help you to grow in knowing and loving him, and ask him to show you how you can help those in need, especially in the church. Thank him for caring for you and providing for your needs.

