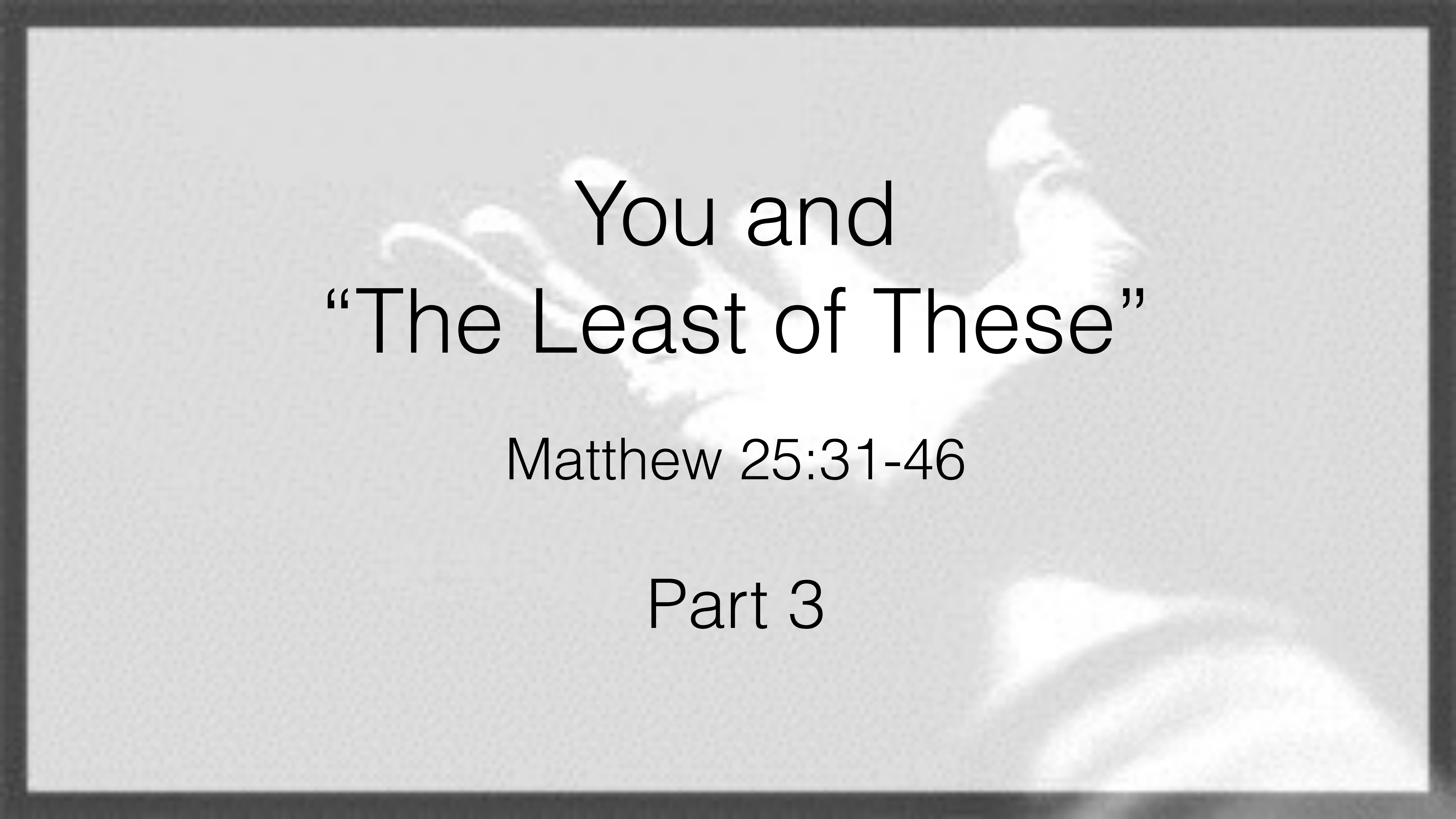




*“Whatever you did for these brothers  
and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*

*Matthew 25:40*



You and  
“The Least of These”

Matthew 25:31-46

Part 3

# Introduction

- In this passage, Jesus tells us that upon His return as judge, He will separate all the nations of the world based on how they met the needs of the “least of these.”
- Though I don't understand the full implications of Jesus' words, it is clear that how we treat those in need in this life has a great effect on where and how we will spend eternity.
- We read that this will be a personal evaluation for each person. We cannot rely on the church, charitable organizations, or government programs. Each of us will encounter the hungry, thirsty, strangers, those in need of clothes, the sick and those in prison. We will all stand before Jesus and give an account of how we loved Him by loving them.

# “I was sick and you looked after Me”

- “I needed clothes and you clothed me, **I was sick and you looked after me**, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Matthew 25:36
- The word “sick” is translated from the Greek word that means, “to be feeble, diseased, impotent (lacking strength), sick, weak.” (Strong’s)
- The phrase “looked after me” is translated from a word that means, “to inspect, to go to see, to relieve, to look out for, to watch over.” (Strong’s)
- So Jesus will personally evaluate each of us on when, led by His Spirit, we encountered sick or weak individuals and how well we cared for them. It’s such a beautiful thought that we can personally minister to the physical needs of Jesus by taking care of the sick and feeble.

# Practical Ministry to the Sick and Feeble

- Minister to friends, family, and neighbors when they are sick.
- Serve the elderly and feeble in your church or neighborhood.
- Visit local nursing homes
  - Keenland 817.594.2715, Holland Lake 817,598.0160
  - Autumn Hill Manor 817.757.4177, Wfd Healthcare Cntr 817.594.8713
- Volunteer at local hospitals - Wfd Reg Medical Cntr 817.599.1672
- Help Hospital Chaplains
- Cancer Care Ministry at The Gathering - Kelli Smith 678.898.7080
- Cook meals for families dealing with sickness - Jayme Wood 817.341.9192
- Check in with widows to see if they need physical help with anything.
- Consistently and faithfully pray for the sick and weak. (Matthew 18:18-20)
- Offer for the elders to pray over the sick if they desire. (James 5:14-15)



How do I effectively and  
Biblically minister to the sick?

# 1. Be Sensitive and Compassionate

- “When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.” Matthew 14:14
- “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it...its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”  
1 Corinthians 12:27,25b-26
- “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Philippians 2:3-4
- Part of being a Christ-like family is taking time and effort to look past ourselves and be sensitive to the needs of others around us.

## 2. Be A Selfless Servant

- “Because of the crowd He told his disciples to have a small boat ready for Him, to keep the people from crowding Him. For He had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch Him...Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered so that He and his disciples were not even able to eat.” Mark 3:9-10,20
- “And whoever would be first among you must be the slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:44-45
- Meeting the practical needs of the sick and feeble will rarely, if ever, be easy, comfortable or convenient. It will require a denial of self; getting messy and putting their needs before our own.



# 3. Pray with Faith

- “This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us - whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked for.”  
1 John 5:14-15
- “Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits - who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.” Psalm 103:2-3
- “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.”  
Isaiah 40:29
- “Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my Name, there I am with them.” Matthew 18:19-20

# 3. Pray with Faith

- “But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord.” James 1:6-7
- Unfortunately, the church culture today talks and makes promises of prayer, but few Christ followers are willing to actually pray and go to war spiritually for the sick and feeble.
- The truth is that God can touch their hearts and their bodies in a way we never can. Prayer still moves the hand of God. Who will be willing to stop their busy lives, bow on their knees, and consistently cry out to God on behalf of the weak, feeble, and sick?
- Who will believe God for the humanly impossible? Who will pray with faith and fully expect God to move in mighty ways? (Romans 4:18-21)

# 4. Be Bold when the Spirit Moves You

- “He called His twelve disciples to Him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.” Matthew 10:1
- “After this the Lord appointed 72 others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go...**When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you.’”**  
Luke 10:1,8
- **“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. (specifically miracles - verse 11) He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my Name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me for anything in my Name, and I will do it.”** John 14:12-14

# 4. Be Bold when the Spirit Moves You

- When God gives you the opportunity to pray and believe for miraculous healing, go for it! It's His power and His promises. Don't be afraid of failure, because you're only a vessel. The pressure is off of you and on His shoulders, and He can take it.
- He doesn't need us to defend His reputation, only believe His Word and be obedient to His commands. Have child-like faith. Ask God to purify any doubt, and pray in faith with expectation. Leave the rest to Him.
- It is my opinion, that the current generation doubts that God exists because the church has failed to believe and demonstrate the power of God. Let's be a church that cannot be explained by the ability of man. Let us be a church that can only be explained by the super-natural power of the Living God! "Please Lord, use us to show Your power and glory!"

# Conclusion

- Jesus will personally evaluate each of our lives. Part of that evaluation will be how we ministered to the sick and feeble. What will He say to you on that day?
- Are we being sensitive and compassionate toward the needs of others around us?
- Are we taking the time and effort to actually serve them and meet their physical needs, no matter how inconvenient it might be?
- Are we willing to invest time in prayer to war for their situation?
- When the Spirit moves us, are we willing to boldly believe for their miraculous healing? What is He speaking to you about today?