

**Jesus,**

I want to be Your humble servant.  
So take me...all of me.  
Add anything, take anything away—  
at any cost, for any price.  
Make me Yours completely...wholly.

I don't want to be remembered  
for my personal style,  
or the shape of my face,  
the people I know or the career or family  
or even the "spiritual impact" I've had.

May I be known for loving You...  
for carrying Your dream...  
and building bridges  
to the hurt and broken  
and lost in the world.

Make me what **You** would be  
if you lived in person—  
right here where I do.  
May everything accomplished  
through my small life  
bring honor and glory to You.

Take my human flaws and failures  
and use them to remind  
those who really know me  
that only You are God  
and I will always just be  
your \_\_\_\_\_.

**Amen.**



## *What is the Gospel?*

### The Kingdom: Incarnation

Danny Hall • November 18, 2012  
Micah 6:8; Matthew 25:31-46



# *What is the Gospel?*

## The Kingdom: Incarnation

Micah 6:8; Matthew 25:31-46  
Message-based Group Lesson

### Overview

While often difficult to faithfully live out, we can understand conceptually how the Gospel changes us from the inside out, forming us into people who are to be characterized by the Kingdom ethic of love. We can also grasp what this might mean in our personal relationships. A much harder question is how does the presence of God's Kingdom, alive but not yet fully realized, challenge the world and its systemic evil? In the words of the prophet, what does it mean to "act justly?" What does it mean for us to live in a way that reflects Kingdom values and gives a foretaste of the fully realized Kingdom of God that awaits us? How we live impacts and influences society to live more in concert with these Kingdom values now.

In order to consider the importance of and a possible path forward to an answer to this question, we are going to consider one of the most difficult passages from the teaching of Jesus. At first glance, this passage is not so difficult to understand. The difficulty is reconciling this teaching with our understanding of being saved by grace and not by works. This passage is the closing challenge to Jesus' teaching about the future. The larger teaching is found in Matthew 24-25, but we are going to look at his closing remarks found in Matthew 25:31-46. In these verses Jesus simply states that the eternal destiny of people depends on how they treat the marginalized and hurting of this world. We will touch on the theological issues, but our focus will be on the particular acts of kindness that are lifted up as crucial and talk about what they imply about the way we live our lives.

### Engaging with each other

1. The last line of the Pledge of Allegiance says, "...with liberty and justice for all." What do you think that means? Why is it difficult to achieve?

### Engaging with the Bible

1. Read Micah 6:8. This verse instructs us to "...act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Why might this be a good description of Kingdom living?

2. Read Matthew 25:31-46. This passage describes the last judgment. What surprises you about this description? What does it imply about Kingdom values?
3. In what sense are we actually serving Jesus when we serve "the least of these"? (Matthew 25:45)
4. We recently studied Ephesians 2:8-10 in our look at how one enters into life in God's Kingdom. How would you reconcile Paul's teaching in that passage with Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25:31-46?

### Engaging with our lives

1. Name the six actions Jesus commends in the Matthew passage. Suggest some things you might do to fulfill each of them.
2. What might you need to stop doing in order to create room in your life to serve the "least of these"?
3. This is not a checklist Jesus is giving you. Which one do you have more of a heart for? What will you do in the next month to display these Kingdom values?