



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Interactive Sunday School Outline

TOPIC: Servant's Entrance

TEXT: Matthew 25:31-46

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone can participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction – Church life is full of opportunities to serve. Scan the Sunday bulletin or listen to the announcements, and you'll hear many appeals for help. It seems there are always more jobs than people willing to do them. Soon opportunity begins to look like obligation. How often has someone approached you with a look of desperation and said, "You're the perfect person for this job, and besides, nobody else will do it"?

By contrast, we usually jump at opportunities to get together and have fun. We're quick to sign up for a church picnic or camping trip or movie night. Ironically, nothing builds true community like selfless service together. Many Christian groups form strong bonds of fellow- ship as they give of their time and sweat in ministry together.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe What is the most meaningful act of service that a church has ever provided to you or your family? Which have you found more rewarding - being served or serving? Why?
2. In the last week of Jesus' earthly life, he came to Jerusalem, the center of Jewish spiritual and political life and the site of God's temple. Sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, he talked about his future painted a vivid word picture of future judgment.
3. What contrasts are made throughout this passage?

4. In Jesus' story, what is the setting (v. 31)?
5. On what basis are the "sheep and goats" divided (vv. 34-36)?
6. What thoughts and feelings do you have as you think about the division of the sheep and the goats?
7. As you imagine yourself before the throne on that day, with which group do you see yourself being put, and why?
8. What do the services described in verses 35-36 have in common?
9. Why do you think those on the king's right are surprised by what he says vs. v. 37-39)?
10. It is possible to read this story and conclude that we must earn salvation through our actions. How do you respond to that interpretation, and why?
11. In what sense is Jesus hungry, thirsty, a stranger, in need of clothing, sick and in prison (vs. 40, 45)?
12. What, for you, would be the effect of seeing Jesus himself in the faces of helpless people?
13. What does this passage say to you about the priority of service in your own Christian community?
14. What practical changes can you and your church bring about to make service a higher priority?
15. Come up with more answers to question 12 and consider how to put one or more of them into practice. Identify resources you will need and people to invite on board. As you plan, keep in mind the need to develop a servant's heart rather than to work for any selfish motives or to earn salvation.