

Rev. Thomas Emery
“On Judgment Day” Matthew 25:31-46
Salem Presbyterian Church
Sunday, November 23, 2014

The passage given for today tells us that Christ will Judge us based upon His concern for the well-being of persons who cannot be self-supporting and who must rely on the compassion and generosity of others. Of course, that concern includes all of us to some extent, because every person is dependent upon others. Nobody is completely self-sufficient. It’s really just a matter of degree. God feeds the hungry and helps the hopeless through us. When we pray for Him to help, He reminds us that He has provided us with the abundant resources and the means to feed the hungry and help those in need. He says, "Yes, I will help through you!"

TEACHING POINTS

Teaching Point One: *We have been blessed with knowing the Good News!*

Teaching Point Two: *We must put our faith into action.*

Teaching Point Three: *We, the church, are supposed to reflect the nature and priorities of God, and God loves the poor, lonely and outcasts.*

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me’ (Matthew 25:35-36 NLT).

ACTION POINT

Christ had an affinity for the poor, the outcasts, and the dregs of society, and they seemed to have gravitated toward Him as well. In the imagery of the last judgment, Jesus goes so far as to suggest that He is so identified with human need that the way we respond to the needy of the world is the way we respond to the Lord, Himself. It would appear that Christ is saying to those who are the church that we are to be in some sense God’s safety net. How much more plain could it be said than in this parable that the church’s love for Christ will be realized or lost by our efforts to feed and clothe and shelter and console? The world is filled with persons who are unprotected, uncared for, hungry, abused, and belittled, and Christ is looking for His church to be their support as the ultimate picture of a God who is our Refuge and Strength. You are responsible even if fellow Christians ignore their responsibility. Let us open our eyes and act today to the responsibility to meet the need in our families, our neighbors and our larger world!