



Growth Group Questions
April 19, 2026
“Mind the Margins”

CONTEXT

We find Jesus teaching His disciples in Matthew 24 and 25 on the Mount of Olives. Jesus discusses his second coming and the end of the age. He uses three parables to emphasize being prepared for this time. “The Faithful Servant” focuses on daily responsibility. The “Ten Bridesmaids” teaches about being vigilant. The final parable is called “The Talents” and is used to show us that we are to use the gifts that God has given to us, instead of hiding them for safekeeping.

In Matthew 25, Jesus uses the illustration of sheep and goats to show the difference between eternal life and eternal punishment. We are wise to take the words of Jesus seriously as we attempt to take faith seriously. When Jesus is asked about how to live according to His word, He says to love God and love others (Luke 10). Then He follows this command with a lesson on showing mercy and kindness like the “good Samaritan.” Therefore, we are going to be judged according to this.

Since it is toward the end of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is nearing the end of His life on Earth and we notice that He begins to speak more plainly about the end times and how we are supposed to live. The best way to love God is to love others. This demonstrates that we are living according to His plan every day, not just at the end of our lives when it seems to matter more.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave



me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,³⁶ 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.’³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?’³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

QUESTIONS

1. In what way is love a fruit of the Holy Spirit?
2. What are the characteristics of love as a fruit of the Holy Spirit?
3. Pastor Noel and Pastor Jeremiah both spoke about demonstrating God’s love to the marginalized in our society. What does it mean to be marginalized?
4. Who are the people who might find themselves “in the margins” today?
5. Why is it sometimes difficult to love those who seem unlovable to us?
6. What can we practically do to help build our love and our ability to demonstrate our love for those who are marginalized?
7. What lessons did you learn from Matthew 25:31-46?

