

LESSON 11

IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO

MATTHEW 24:1—25:46



1 Imagine losing your job and not being able to find another one—no matter how hard you try—for more than two years. How might this affect you and your family?

2 How would you feel?



Read Matthew 24:1—25:46 and the following notes:

- ☐ 24:3ff ☐ 25:1ff ☐ 25:29, 30 ☐ 25:31–46 ☐ 25:32 ☐ 25:34–40
☐ 25:40

3 What do those who know God do for needy, weak, and helpless people (25:35, 36)?

4 How will God reward his people (25:34, 46)?

5 In Matthew 24—25, Jesus warned his followers to be ready for his return. In what different ways did he want his disciples to be watchful (24:4, 42, 43; 25:13)?

6 What will matter most when we stand before God at the Last Judgment?



Jesus' disciples knew they were following Israel's king. Though they didn't fully understand yet that Jesus would have to die and be raised to life, they expected him eventually to take his throne. How could they best serve their King? Through a parable, Jesus answered this question: by serving others. Of course, the weight of God's judgment will not rest on our acts of generosity to others, but the absence of generosity certainly shows a lack of understanding Jesus. The only way to be sure we are giving our King proper respect is to treat all people as if they were our King. Opportunities to serve hungry people, thirsty people, strangers, poor people, sick people, and prisoners are opportunities to serve Jesus, our King.

7 Who are the needy people in the world?



8 Who are the people with needs in your community?

9 Who are the needy people in your extended family?

10 What opportunities do you have to serve people with special needs?

11 Which needy people can you help this week?



12 When and how will you help them?

A What will make people think Christ has returned (24:4–8)? Why will people believe impostors' claims to be the returning Messiah? What is the best way to avoid being deceived by such impostors?

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B What is one important milestone that must be passed before Christ returns (24:14)? What is your part in reaching this milestone?

C What errors did the following people make: the wicked servant (24:48, 49); the foolish bridesmaids (25:3); the lazy servant (25:24–27)? What qualities mark the life of a pleasing servant?

D Why did the man in Jesus' parable of the loaned money give different amounts of gold to each of his servants (25:14–30)? What has God entrusted to you? How can you invest it?

E What are we responsible to do with what God has given us (25:20–23)? If Christ came for the accounting today, how anxious would you be about meeting him? What changes would make you more ready for his return?