

# Entrusted With Each Other

Presented by Tressie Gade on 11/22/20  
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Today we wrap up our current sermon series, “Entrusted”. Our scripture inspiration today finishes out the 25th chapter of Matthew, with the parable of the sheep and the goats. “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’

At this point some of you might be thinking, “wait I have heard her preach this sermon before”. And you sort of right, the first sermon I ever preached was based on the book “Shoemaker Martin” which illustrates this parable quite beautifully. But don’t tune out just yet, this will not be a repeat sermon.

To sum up the book, Shoemaker Martin wants to meet Jesus and in a dream Jesus says he will come. Martin spends the next day going about his life and helping out the needy in his village all the while waiting to meet our Lord. He gives an old street sweeper some tea and company, he gives a needy mother and child some food and money, and he helps an old woman and a thief forgive each other and work together. At the end of the day Martin feels sad, like he didn’t meet Jesus, as he is going to bed the Lord comes to him again and points out that in helping the needy he did in fact see God that day. The book ends with “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

How does this fit with our series entrusted? Here is where we dig a little deeper into our story. In a Las Vegas food pantry they helped a number of families, one volunteer took a day to talk to the

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families they were helping. To find out what the families needed specifically. While hesitant to talk at first, the families eventually opened up to the volunteer and the food pantry learned that what their clients needed wasn't necessarily more food, but instead help finding jobs. After each of these conversations the volunteer was thanked for simply listening. By taking the time to find out specifically what was need, they were about the help their clients more.

God calls on us to help other and spread his message of love across our world. And, not going to lie, this can sometimes seem like a daunting task, but in this parable, God pretty much spells out what we need to do. "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

To help our world we need to listen to our world. Everyone needs something different, and not every problem is going to be solved in the same old way it has been. 2020 has been a year of learning to do things differently, from work to school to something as simple as going grocery shopping. We need to approach every problem with the specific question of "What do YOU need?". And then we need to listen carefully to the response.

God entrusts us to serve his world and spread the message of love. He is trusting us to find out how to do that, he wants us to find out how to help others around us, and then actually help them. It's not an easy thing to do. Simply writing a check and marking for donation is easier. And I'm not saying don't do that, if that is how you feel you can best give, please continue to give. But if you have the option and ability, try finding out what is specifically needed. Call the food pantry or WNC, find out what they specifically need. If someone around you is having a hard time, stop and talk to them, ask what they need most. Listen to what others are telling you.

Our world is hurting, and I think it's going to take some pretty creative thinking to help it heal. Everyone needs something different, and everyone can provide something different. Get out there (safely), get your hands dirty so to speak, find what is most needed and find a way to provide that. Sadly the world isn't going to fix itself. It's time to do as God has instructed us to. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me". Go. Do. Serve. Amen and amen.