

INTRO

In this sermon, Gordon explored the theme of "Reach" with a focus on neighborhoods, examining Matthew 25:31-46 and the powerful message that "Least is not Less."

When have you experienced a time where you viewed someone as "less than" only to have your perspective transformed?

What's your initial reaction to Jesus identifying himself with "the least of these"?

IDEA 1: KING JESUS AS JUDGE

Gordon highlighted the contrast between Jesus' first and second coming:

- First coming: Humility and obscurity
- Second coming: Glory, visibility, and judgment

Jesus will separate humanity into only two groups, with no middle ground.

How does knowing Jesus is the ultimate judge affect how you view and treat others?

In what ways has your faith journey been shaped by encounters with those society might consider "least"?

IDEA 2: COME HOME

Gordon clarified that salvation is by grace through faith, not works, while emphasizing that genuine faith is expressed through concern for others.

How does Jesus' identification with "the least" challenge your understanding of Christian community?

When have you experienced Christ's presence while serving someone in need?

What barriers prevent you from seeing Christ in those society considers "least"?

IDEA 2: CONT.

Gordon addressed the difficult reality of eternal separation from God for those who refuse to identify with Christ and those He identifies with.

How does the urgency of this message impact your approach to reaching your neighborhood?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Take a few minutes to meditate on Matthew 25:40 as a life group: "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

Then:

- Share stories of when you've encountered Jesus in unexpected people or places.
- Prayerfully discuss what "least is not less" means for your group specifically.
- Identify opportunities in your neighborhood where you can reach out to those Jesus identifies with.
- Take some time to pray for those people and opportunities.

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

Below are some options of an action step you could take this week. Look over the list and prayerfully choose one to engage with!

- Visit the neighborhood ministry tables in the lobby and learn about one specific opportunity to serve
- Intentionally engage with someone you might have previously overlooked
- Pray for eyes to see Christ in everyone you encounter this week
- Consider joining one of Ashley's teams or connecting with a partner organization