

TOOL: Finding Jesus in the Margin

Embodying mercy in the margin • Weekly



This week, we are going to do a deep dive into Jesus' words found in Matthew 25. This chapter is a collection of parables or stories Jesus shares with his followers. It concludes with this story of a King who judges humanity with a particular concern - care for the vulnerable.

Read Matthew 25:31-46 and answer the following questions.

How does this judgement sit with you?

How does this teaching align with what you have learned about the Gospel? What is in alignment and where is there tension?

Many scholars share that parables are not meant to be taken literally or as an allegory. These stories are created to share a singular point. What is the one main message of this parable?

Detail out the six marginalized people-groups whom the King identifies with.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Where in our community can we find these individuals?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

What are the organizations already serving these groups?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

What has been your experience alongside these communities? Have you spent time in service to them? Do you have emotional resistance to these groups?

As we seek to embody mercy in the margins, consider the following two practices:

1. Spend time in prayer for each of these six people-groups. Perhaps, choose one per day and lift them in prayer (morning, midday, and evening).
2. Pray for a sense of calling to step forward into the margin to embody mercy with one set of people. Which do you feel compelled to serve, or is there one population which you have never served? Consider reaching out to an organization about opportunities to volunteer or to find out more about the needs they have. As you go, remember that your role is not to “save” anyone, but to encounter Jesus already there in the faces of those individuals.
3. Without considering organizations, what is a small act you can do to help those in the margin? Is it making a small meal to hand to the individual on the street? Could you write a letter of encouragement to someone in prison? Can you go through your closet and find all the clothes you could give to those in need?

Debrief your experience

After practicing with this tool, debrief your experience with your Praxis Group. Below are some questions to process together:

- Check in on life. (Where are you experiencing Christ's presence this week? What burdens are you carrying?)
- What did you learn from this practice?
- Describe your experience with this practice. (What feelings came up, what went well, what got in the way? How has it impacted your relationship with God?)
- What is the next step for you?