



## Judging the Nations

In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus speaks of those who will inherit the kingdom of God as being those who care for people in need because in doing so, they are actually caring for Jesus himself. At the same time, Jesus makes it plain that the people who do not care for others in need will be sent away from Jesus and the kingdom of God.

Many of us are good at helping those in need that we can see. We are also pretty good at applying band aids – that is handing out food and clothes, and sending out emergency aid when disaster strikes. All these acts are important and necessary examples of showing the love of Christ in a needy world. However, there is still a difference between giving a cup of milk or giving a cow. We need to make lasting changes that will help people in the long run. Too often, when the choices we must make affect our lives and pocketbooks, we are not so good at seeing Jesus in the people who need our help. We forget that Jesus came for everyone and offers help to everyone because they are people. He does not base his love or help on merit as we are so tempted to do (Matthew 5:43-48). We get so caught up in seeing people for what they do or what they 'contribute' as a measure of what they are worth. It is easy to forget that the value of every person in God's eyes is that they are his children important enough to be created in his own image! Dear Lord forgive us when we forget that!

### ***This week pray for:***

The Ongoing Mistreatment of Children and parents by immigration authorities at The U.S. Border. Many children taken from their parents have still not been returned to them and no concerted effort is being made to reunite these families.

Pray for those being forced to flee their homes in this hemisphere. At least 2.3 million, maybe as many as 4 million Venezuelans have fled their homes because government corruption has turned a once flourishing country into a place where people cannot get enough food, medical care, etc. This tragedy may create a refugee problem as serious as the one in Syria. Thousands more are fleeing violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

The Rohingya, a minority group in Myanmar (Burma). They face persecution which many say amounts to genocide. The U.N. just announced their investigation has found that Myanmar's military is responsible. The Rohingya are not even acknowledged as citizens in Myanmar where they have lived for generations.



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