

## BE A BRINGER

*“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”* John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

## PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

*“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....”* I Samuel 12:23a

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## MISSIONARY OF THE WEEK

Phil and Vala Long | Madagascar



**PRAY**

- Pray for the process of discipling new believers.

**PRAISE**

- Praise God for the opportunity to lead our middle and high school students to church camp. Several students were saved, and almost all left camp with the desire to serve in the local church. This church camp experience led to the creation of a weekly youth service, Foundry Student Ministries. Each week, there are 30 to 40 students who attend.

- Praise God for the growth of the church. The church is now holding two services and it's going smoothly. This allows them to accommodate even more people in services.

- Praise God for the willingness of people to serve in various ministries throughout the church.



Handout: 07/06/25

Study Date: 07/13/25

## Make Heaven Crowded By Caring

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats is part of the Olivet Discourse. It is found in Matthew 25:31-46. A parable is a short, simple story of comparison. Jesus used parables to teach spiritual truths by means of earthly situations.

Jesus begins the parable by saying it concerns His return in glory to set up His kingdom (Matthew 25:31). Therefore, the setting of this event is at the beginning of the millennium, after the tribulation. All those on earth at that time will be brought before the Lord, and He will separate them “as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left” (verses 32–33). The sheep are those who were saved during the tribulation; the goats are the unsaved who survived the tribulation.

In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, we are looking at man redeemed and saved, and man condemned and lost. A casual reading seems to suggest that salvation is the result of good works. The “sheep” acted charitably, giving food, drink, and clothing to the needy. The “goats” showed no charity. This seems to result in salvation for the sheep and damnation for the goats.

However, Scripture does not contradict itself, and the Bible clearly and repeatedly teaches that salvation is by faith through the grace of God and not by our good works (see John 1:12; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:22-24; Romans 4:4-8; Romans 7:24-25; Romans 8:12; Galatians 3:6-9; and Ephesians 2:8-10). In fact, Jesus Himself makes it clear in the parable that the salvation of the “sheep” is not based on their works—their inheritance was theirs “since the creation of the world” (Matthew 25:34), long before they could ever do any good works!

The good works mentioned in the parable are not the *cause* of salvation but the *effect* of salvation. As Christians we become like Christ (see Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; and Colossians 2:6-7). Galatians 5:22 tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. Good works in a Christian’s life are the direct overflow of these traits, and are only acceptable to God because of the relationship that exists between servant and Master, the saved and their Savior, the sheep and their Shepherd (see Ephesians 2:10).

Resource: Gotquestions.org

## KEY VERSE

Matthew 25:40 (NKJV)

*And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

Read Matthew 25:31-46 Every Day

## WEEKLY READINGS

### Monday: Matthew 10:7-8, 25:40

#### The Gospel Of The Kingdom Demands Action

1. Matthew 25:40 reveals our potential for “holiness” towards others. What wisdom can we take from this verse regarding how we treat others?
2. What is the unmistakable message being conveyed to us as believers in Matthew 10:7-8? What is it calling us to as followers of Christ?

### Tuesday: Matthew 25:31-33

#### The Imminent Return Of The King

3. Matthew 25:31 paints a clear picture of “*When the Son of Man comes in His glory.*” Where will He be “seated” according to this verse?
4. What will the Son of Man do with all the nations that are gathered before Him? What will He do with the sheep and the goats? (Matthew 25:32-33).

### Wednesday: Matthew 25:34-40

#### The Judgement Of The Righteous

5. What awaits those who follow the “*King*” according to Matthew 25:34? What specifically has He prepared for “*those on His right hand*”?
6. What did those who have gained the kingdom of Heaven do for our Lord according to Matthew 25:35-40? What “works” did they perform?

### Thursday: Matthew 25:41:46

#### The Judgement And Final Verdict Of The Unrighteous

7. What does our Lord say to “*those on His left hand*” in Matthew 25:41? What *word* does He use to describe them upon His judgement of them?
8. What actions did the those “*on His left hand*” NOT perform that ultimately . caused them to be “cursed.” (Matthew 25:42-43)
9. Matthew 25:46 reveals the *final verdict* for both the righteous and the unrighteous. What will become of the unrighteous? What awaits them?

### Friday: Luke 10:25-37; Acts 9:36; James 2:17-18; I Peter 5:7

#### Biblical Models Of Making Heaven Crowded By Caring

10. What is Jesus teaching us in the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37. How is He hoping to shape our character with this story?
11. We are introduced to a certain disciple named Tabitha in Acts 9:36. What positive example does she set for us by her actions towards others?
12. What imperative lesson do we learn from I Peter 5:7? Who cares for us more than anyone else? Who must we “*cast all our cares upon*”?