

BACKYARD MISSIONS



Family Devotional: Day One

Matthew 25:34-40 (ESV)

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who 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 drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.**’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 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.’”



One day, Jesus was talking to a large crowd of people about what God's kingdom, or heaven, is like and who would get to live there.



Jesus explained that he was the son of God and he would be the king of heaven. He said that the people who will live in heaven are those who took care of him when he needed help! He said that it would be the people who gave him food when he was very hungry, gave him water when he was thirsty, gave him clothes when he was naked, and even visited him in prison!

Everyone in the crowd was very confused when they heard Jesus saying these things. They knew that if Jesus was the son of God, and a king, he would not be hungry or thirsty. He would have all the clothes he needed, and he sure wouldn't ever be in prison!

God came to earth as a man named Jesus, who was hungry and thirsty just like us. So, was Jesus saying that we should just give him food our food when he is hungry? Are we supposed to



give Jesus clothes? No! Jesus wants us to take care of other people.

Jesus answered these questions by saying that, whenever we take care of other people who need help, it is just like we are taking care of God! He wanted the people in the crowd to know that, even though God does not need food or water or clothes... there are lots of people who do. And when we help the people who are poor, hungry, and thirsty, we are really giving a gift to the Lord! God loves it when we love each other.

This is why serving others is so important! By loving others, we show them God's love, and how he came to help us when we were in need. When we were poor and lost, he gave us the ultimate gift. He gave us His son, Jesus.



Jesus died on the cross for our sins, so that we don't have to! Because of him, we can inherit the kingdom of the Lord, like Jesus said! But we shouldn't just keep this gift to ourselves. We should follow the example of Jesus and share this gift with those who are in need: those who are hungry, thirsty, cold, sick, and even those who are in prison!

By sharing the love of Jesus with those who have less than we do, we show Jesus how grateful we are for his sacrifice, and for giving us help when we needed it most

Discussion

- In our day to day lives, how can we help those who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, and in prison?
- Throughout Jesus' ministry, how did he help people who were in need?
- When was the last time you saw someone who was in need? How did it make you feel?