

# — THE — POWER OF STORY

## Part 3

## Caring for Others

This past Sunday Dr. Wayne continued *The Power of Story*. During this series we invite you to look with us at the power of story to change us. Jesus' parables can help us to understand and put into practice our faith. Meet with someone at work, your family, or find a place to do it alone or with a friend. Let's grow and do life together during this series.

*Now when a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable. Luke 8:4*

1. This week's parable is about the end of time and how caring for others reflects our love for God (read Matthew 25:31-46). This parable separates two groups: those who care (sheep) and those who don't (goats). God's desire is that we would allow His kingdom to be expressed through us on earth as it is in Heaven (read Psalm 89:14 and Deuteronomy 15: 4, 7-8). How well do your actions separate you from the goats?
2. God blesses us to be a blessing. We don't bless those in need because we feel sorry for them. We don't give to someone out of pity. We are generous because we are filled with the compassion of Jesus, and we are giving to Him (read Proverbs 14:31). Jesus' love for the underprivileged creates a model for us to follow. What we do reflects what we really believe. We cannot say that we follow Jesus and then walk a path different than what He would walk. Who in your life could you bless? Look around and find someone today.
3. The motivation from God to act justly, to seek justice, and to care for the poor is: "don't forget what I've done for you." An encounter with grace inevitably leads to a life of justice. When we understand what Christ has done for us, the result is a life of deeds of justice and compassion for the poor. Take a moment to thank God for His grace.
4. May the Lord open your eyes to see the poverty in your community the way that He, the God of all justice, sees it. May He lead you to love a neighbor that He loves.

Close in prayer