

**Speaker:** Jamie

**Text:** Matthew 25:31–46

**Series:** Signs of the Times

**Date:** Sunday, January 25, 2026

## Summary

This week, Jamie takes us into one of the most weighty and important teachings of Jesus. He gently leads us through a conversation about final judgment by walking us through the last part of Matthew 25. It is not light, but it is full of truth and hope if we are willing to hear it.

Jesus paints a vivid scene. One day He will return in glory and all people will stand before Him. Like a shepherd sorting sheep from goats, He will divide people into two groups. Those on the right, called the sheep, are welcomed into His kingdom because they fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, welcomed strangers, clothed the naked, cared for the sick, and visited those in prison. Jesus says when they did these things for the least of His brothers and sisters, they were doing them for Him.

The people on His left, the goats, are sent away because they failed to care for those in need. They ignored suffering, and by doing so, they ignored Jesus.

Jamie reminds us that these acts of compassion were not just nice gestures. In the time Jesus spoke these words, hospitality and care often meant the difference between life and death. The people who showed compassion were not even aware they were serving Jesus, but their lives reflected His heart.

Some listeners might wonder if this sounds like salvation by works. Jamie takes us to Ephesians 2:8–9 to clarify that salvation is by grace through faith. But he explains that real biblical faith is not just intellectual belief. It is allegiance to Jesus. It is a way of life that reflects His priorities. And Jesus was consistently described as having compassion. It was the emotion most often associated with Him. If we say we are following Him, then compassion should mark our lives too.

Jamie shares a powerful personal story about his time serving at an orphanage in Mexico. He went not as someone with all the answers but as someone willing to be shaped by God. That experience changed him. It made him softer, kinder, and more aware of the needs around him. God used that season to form him into someone more like Jesus.

He brings it all together with a strong message. How we live matters. Eternity is impacted by the choices we make right now. Judgment is real. It will be for everyone. And the things we are judged on are not hidden or unclear. God has told us what He values. He has already given us the answers.

Jamie gives an example of a man in their church who quietly and consistently serves those in need with no need for recognition. This man sees a need and meets it. That is what it means to live like Jesus. And Jamie believes with all his heart that when this man stands before Jesus, he will hear the words we all long to hear. Well done.

This is what we are aiming for. This is what matters.

## Main Points

1. Jesus will return and judge all people
2. Compassion for people in need is evidence of Kingdom allegiance
3. The six acts of mercy are not symbolic but deeply practical
4. Real faith is always expressed in action
5. Faith is not just belief but loyalty to Jesus
6. Our everyday choices have eternal consequences
7. There will be real rewards and real losses based on how we lived
8. It is never too late to change direction and walk in step with Jesus
9. God is forming us to be like Him and compassion is part of His nature
10. Judgment is not about surprise but about what we already know to do
11. Our goal is not just to get by but to hear Jesus say well done
12. How we treat others reveals how closely we are following Jesus

## Scripture References

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| <b>Matthew 25:31–46</b>      | Jesus describes the final judgment based on acts of compassion. |
| <b>Daniel 7:13–14</b>        | Prophecy of the Son of Man receiving eternal authority.         |
| <b>Ephesians 2:8–9</b>       | We are saved by grace through faith, not by works.              |
| <b>2 Corinthians 5:10</b>    | Everyone will be judged for what they did in this life.         |
| <b>1 Corinthians 3:11–15</b> | Our works will be tested to see what truly lasts.               |
| <b>Matthew 25:14–30</b>      | Parable showing we're accountable for what we're given.         |
| <b>Luke 7:13</b>             | Jesus is moved by compassion for a grieving mother.             |
| <b>Matthew 9:36</b>          | Jesus has compassion on lost and weary crowds.                  |
| <b>Mark 1:41</b>             | Jesus heals a leper out of deep compassion.                     |
| <b>Mark 6:34</b>             | Jesus is moved to teach because of compassion.                  |
| <b>James 2:14–17</b>         | Faith without action is empty and dead.                         |

## Questions

1. What is one belief you hold about faith that might need to be redefined in light of Jesus' teaching on compassion?
2. When you consider Jesus identifying with "the least of these," how does that shape your view of people who are struggling?
3. How has comfort or busyness kept you from noticing needs around you?
4. What would change if you began seeing compassion as essential, not optional, to following Jesus?
5. Is there someone in your life you've overlooked that God might be inviting you to see and serve more intentionally?
6. In what ways have you made your faith mostly internal or private? What would it take to make it more visible through action?
7. If Jesus examined your life today, what patterns of compassion would He see?

8. What would it look like to use your job, resources, or time more intentionally to reflect the heart of Jesus?
9. How would your life look different if you believed eternity really does hang on how we treat others?
10. What is one barrier in your heart that is keeping you from deeper compassion, and how can you begin to release it?