

# CHANGED BY GRACE

## A Life That Cannot Be Hidden

**Scripture: Matthew 25:31–46**

**Main Idea:** Grace is not just a theory to study, but a force that transforms. If Grace is real on the inside, it becomes visible on the outside.

---

the **shortest**, but also the **strongest** word that God gave us —  
**a word that changes destinies, opens heavens, and breaks chains.**  
The word is: **“YES.”**

Yes — to God.  
Yes — to the mission.  
Yes — to people that others have forgotten.

Some people live all their life saying “no.”  
“No, I can’t.” “No, it’s not the time.” “No, it’s not my job.”  
**But the people who change the world are the ones who say “YES,”**  
even when they don’t know what will happen next.

---

## 1. When you say “YES” to God, He changes your direction

Gypsy people illustration - give to children alcohol the mission come to us

He had no experience, no money, no plan — but he said: **“YES.”**

That one **“YES”** became the beginning of a movement that, over the years,  
has helped plant 8 gypsy churches and 380 children gypsy in our after school program

The war came Ukraine , One night with our hearts trembling with emotions we have welcome the first family of refugees - mother father 1 daughter 3 years old and 2 twin babies of 3 months

watch on tv when started mothers with children in the cold wether crossing the border and we said  
Yes .thousand on refugy eat in gipsy soup kitchen and others remain with us , When the war began,

families came with almost nothing —

just a few bags,

and children holding their mothers’ hands.

The children were quiet,

their eyes full of fear.

As time went on,

people had nowhere to go —

no friends, no relatives,

and no safe place for their children.

That's why we started the Joy Center

and our kindergarten —

because no child should be left alone when their mothers went to work to earn some money in a foreign country.

Joy Center and kindergarten became a place of warmth and safety,

a place to play, to learn, to smile again.

**We can't stop the war, but we can give love —**

## **INTRO: LIFE BETWEEN TWO COMINGS**

Matthew 25 is about the time between two arrivals.

Jesus came the first time as Savior.  
He will come again as King and Judge.

Between those two comings, He does not give us a calendar.  
He gives us a mirror.

He does not ask, "How much did you know?"

**He asks, "How did you love?"**

And in this passage, Jesus says something that should shake every comfortable believer:

“I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat...  
I was a stranger and you invited Me in...  
I was naked and you clothed Me...  
I was sick and you visited Me...”

And then the sentence that changes everything:

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.”

Not “you did it for them.”

**“You did it for Me.”**

---

## **I. GRACE CHANGES OUR IDENTITY – WHO WE ARE (v.32–34)**

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory...”

There is a throne.  
There is a King.  
There is a separation.

But notice something powerful in verse 34:

**“Come, you who are blessed by My Father; inherit the kingdom...”**

**They inherit.**

You do not earn an inheritance.  
You receive it because you belong to the family.

### **Grace Changes Why You Serve**

“Come, you who are blessed... inherit the kingdom...” (v.34)

**They inherited before their works were mentioned.**

Grace came first.

They did not serve to get the kingdom.  
They served because the kingdom already belonged to them.

Religion says: “Work so you can belong.”  
Grace says: “You belong, now live like it.”

Motivation matters.

Grace-driven service flows from gratitude, not guilt

## **“ “you did for me” Is NOT Salvation by Works — It Is the Evidence of Salvation v 40**

Some people become nervous and ask,  
“Does this mean we are saved by works?”

No.  
The Bible is clear: salvation is by grace, through faith.

But Matthew 25 reveals another truth:

### **Works reveal whether faith is alive or dead.**

#### **” Is NOT Salvation by Works — It Is the Evidence of Salvation**

Some people become nervous and ask,  
“Does this mean we are saved by works?”

No.  
The Bible is clear: salvation is by grace, through faith.

But Matthew 25 reveals another truth:

Works reveal whether faith is alive or dead.

## **II. GRACE CHANGES OUR AFFECTIONS – WHAT WE LOVE (v.35–36)**

**Verse 35:**

“I was hungry and you gave Me food...”

## What mattered to the sheep?

Not comfort.  
Not image.  
Not applause.

### They noticed people.

Before grace, life revolves around self.  
My schedule.  
My security.  
My success.

Grace breaks the mirror.

You stop asking, “What do I want?”

You start asking, “Who needs me?”

Grace rearranges your loves.

You begin to care about what the King cares about.

You begin to see what the King sees.

Say it with me: Grace changes what we love.

---

## III. GRACE CHANGES OUR AWARENESS – WHAT WE NOTICE

Verse 37:

“Lord, when did we see You?”

I love that question.

They were surprised. Vers 38-40

They were not performing.  
They were not counting points.  
They were not building a résumé.

Compassion had become instinct.

The goats saw the same hunger. Vers 44-45

The same pain.

The same opportunity.

But they did nothing.

The difference was not visibility of need.

It was transformation of heart.

Grace changes your reflexes.

When you see suffering, you move.

When you see loneliness, you stop.

When you see injustice, you respond.

Not because you must.

But because you are changed.

---

---

## IV. GRACE CHANGES OUR INSTINCTS – HOW WE ACT (v.37–39)

### THREE PLACES WHERE WE SAW MATTHEW 25 BECOME REAL

#### A. Ukrainian Refugees – “I Was a Stranger”

When war broke out, mothers arrived at the **border holding children.**

No plan.

No certainty.

Just fear and a small bag.

And when the church responded, something holy happened.

A meal became more than food.

A room became more than shelter.

Presence became proof that God had not forgotten them.

One mother said quietly:

“I don’t know what tomorrow will bring. But today I felt that God sees us.”

That is Matthew 25.

Jesus says, “You welcomed Me.”

---

## **B. Roma Communities – “I Was Hungry... I Was Naked”**

Some poverty is economic.

Some poverty is generational.

Some people are not only poor — they are unseen.

**Children without opportunity.**

Families labeled before they are known.

When the church brings food, tutoring, dignity, consistency —  
we are not running a social program.

We are embodying the Gospel.

**One child once asked, “Are you coming back?”**

**Not, “What are you preaching?”**

**But, “Are you coming back?”**

Consistency is love in motion.

And Jesus says, “You did it for Me.”

---

## **C. Our Local Community – “I Was Sick”**

**Sometimes the vulnerable are not far away.**

**They are next door.**

The elderly man who lives alone.

The single mother barely surviving.

The believer fighting depression in silence.

I remember visiting someone who said:

“I haven’t had strength to pray. But the fact that you came tells me God hasn’t given up on me.”

Missions is not always overseas.  
Sometimes it is across the street.

Jesus does not only ask if we sang loudly.

He asks, “Did you show up?”

**WHY ARE CHRISTIANS INVOLVED IN HELPING THE POOR?** Why do we care? **Not out of guilt.**

Not for image.

Not to earn points.

**Because this is the heart of God**

## **V. THE DANGER: RELIGION WITHOUT TRANSFORMATION (v.43–45)**

### **THE SIN NOBODY TALKS ABOUT**

The goats were not criminals. **They were indifferent.**

They saw hunger. They saw pain. They did nothing.

The most dangerous sin is not rebellion. It is **neglect.**

**It is saying, “Not my problem.”**

---

## **VI. The Way You Live Now Shows Whether You Truly Wait — or Just Believe Correctly**

Everyone in the text believed in God.  
Everyone called Him “Lord.”

The difference was not what they believed.

**The difference was how they lived.**

You can have sound theology  
and an unchanged life.

**“Real waiting is revealed in your daily routine.”**

**The Call to a Life Transformed by Grace**

### *I. The Interruptible Life*

One phrase captures every word we have spoken today, every verse we have read, and every heartbeat of this church: **Always on mission**. But let's be clear about what that means. We are not on mission because we are trying to earn a spot in heaven. We are not on mission because a pastor pressured us or because a brochure made us feel guilty. We are on mission **because Grace has changed us**. Look at the life of Jesus. **The most striking thing about His ministry was that Jesus was interruptible**. Read the Gospels and you will see it on every page. **Blind men** crying out from the roadside interrupted Him. **Children** running through the crowds interrupted Him. **Sinners** with broken lives and desperate questions interrupted Him.

And what did He do? He stopped.

He was never too busy to love. He was never too important to notice. He was never so focused on His “schedule” that He missed a soul. Grace—true, saving Grace—makes you interruptible.

**"Lord, when?" – about time and opportunity This question "Lord, when?"** is the key to the message. Because Jesus says: "I was..."

There was a time. There was a window. There was an opportunity. And I want to tell you:  
it's not about our time. **It's about God's time. God places opportunities in front of everyone.**

**Some small. Some big.**

Some obvious. Some masked. And the tragedy of many is that they want to do "big things", but they miss the simple things. Jesus doesn't say: "you impressed me that you did miracles."

He says: "you gave water. you gave bread. you visited. you welcomed. you clothed." Simple things. But with huge spiritual weight.

## *II. The Danger of a Cold Heart*

In the shadows of Matthew 25, there is a warning that should shake us to the core. Both groups—the sheep and the goats—ask the exact same question: “Lord, when did we see You?”

Think about that. It means you can be religious and still miss Jesus. You can sit in this sanctuary, sing songs about grace, and still overlook the vulnerable. **You can have a library full of theology and still have a heart as cold as stone.**

This Missions Celebration is not about guilt. Guilt is a weak fuel; it burns out quickly. **This is about alignment. It is about checking the pulse of your soul. If Christ has truly changed us, compassion will not be an occasional event or a fleeting emotion.** It will be our mark. It will be our instinct. Consistent. Relentless. Always on mission.

---

## *III. The Challenge: Be the Evidence*

**I do not know where God’s calling will take you.** I do not know which corner of the globe your feet will touch or which neighborhood street you will walk. But I know why you are here: **You want your life to matter.** You were not created for the mundane pursuit of comfort; you were created for the majesty of the Kingdom.

So here is my challenge to you today—a challenge that requires a decision:

**First, Be the Evidence, Not Just the Messenger. The world has enough preachers.** It has enough people shouting “truth” at each other. What the world is dying for are people so transformed by Grace that kindness has become their first instinct. **Do not just carry a message in your Bible. Be the message.** Be a changed life that cannot be explained away by anything other than the power of God.

**Second, Let Grace Reconfigure Your Priorities. Stop living to be served!** That is the path to a small, empty life. Start living to serve. From this moment on, when you see a need, I **challenge you not to see a burden that ruins your plans. See a privilege. See an invitation from the King Himself.**

## *IV. The Center is Jesus*

**But listen carefully, because this is the most important part: Our service is not the center. Jesus is the center.** It is so easy in a sermon about compassion to end up talking about ourselves—our work, our missions, our heart. But the center remains Jesus. **The King who will come in glory is the same King who wore a crown of thorns for you.**

He is the One who died for you. He is the One who forgave your deep-seated selfishness. He forgave every missed opportunity and every time you whispered, “Let someone else do it.” He even forgave the service you did out of guilt instead of love.


He rose again to give you a life that is truly life! He did it so you would no longer be a slave to your own ego, but a servant of the One who lived, died, and rose again for you.

## What “YES” is God asking from you today?

Maybe it’s a small YES, but it will open big doors.

**Maybe it’s a YES that will cost you comfort, but it will bring your calling.**

Maybe it’s a YES that will not only change your life,  
but also the lives of many after you.

 **Isaiah 6:8** – “Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us?”

“Here I am. Send me!”

That is the power of YES —  
one small word that moves heaven and opens roads on earth.

---