

**Put Others First**  
Matthew 25:31-46  
Next Steps

**OPENING PRAYER:**

O Lord, how easy it is to turn away from portrayals of a world in which so many of your children exist in abject destitution alongside our colossal opulence. Break our hearts with that which breaks your own, O Lord. Till the unplowed ground of our souls with Christ's very hand, that we might become a living sacrifice of first fruits for all those who hunger and thirst. Empower us to be and bring manna amid the deserts of despair--through Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. Amen.

**BREAKING THE ICE:**

- What did you agree or disagree with in the sermon this week?
- Was there something new that you learned this week?
- When you think about the conditions in our world, what breaks your heart?

**WRESTLING WITH THE WORD:**

Justice has a two-fold meaning: punishment for the wicked and putting the world right. Read about God's justice in Matthew 25:31-46.

- What are your initial thoughts on this passage?
- How does God live out both definitions of justice?
- Jesus provides six areas of need. Which is the most comfortable for you to serve? The most difficult?
  - Who would you add to the list in light of the world today?
- How do you respond to the clear judgment of this passage? What does it teach you?

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Volunteer in one of the ministry areas you discussed tonight. Make a plan and mark your calendar.
- The intro question on what breaks your heart. Spend 3 minutes each day praying for that group/person/condition.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

O Merciful God, fill our hearts, we pray you, with the graces of your Holy Spirit, with love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Teach us to love those who hate us, to pray for those who spitefully use us, that we may be your children, our Father, who make your sun to shine on the evil and on the good and send rain on the just and on the unjust. -St. Anselm (1033-1109), Archbishop of Canterbury.