

March 15, 2026

Sunday School | Bible Study

Title: Giving to the Community

Scripture: Deuteronomy 15:4 – 11

Matthew 25:42 – 45



Study Outline

A. Lesson Context: Deuteronomy

B. Lesson Context: Matthew

1. Giving to Neighbors (Deuteronomy 15:4–11)

A. Promise of Blessing (vv. 4–6)

B. Reminder of Generosity (vv. 7–10)

C. Command of Benevolence (v. 11)

II. Giving to the Lord (Matthew 25:42–45)

A. Showing Compassion (vv. 42–43)

B. Questioning Timing (v. 44)

C. Revealing Meaning (v. 45)

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Deuteronomy 15: Was Delivered around 1406 BC on the plains of Moab, an essential part of Moses' final covenant address to a new generation of Israelites.

Israel is ready to enter Canaan, and receiving vital instructions for maintaining covenant life.

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

The title Deuteronomy is a combination of two Greek words meaning “second law.”

Moses wrote the words in this book after the Israelites served their 40-year sentence in the wilderness. (Numbers 32:13; Deuteronomy 2:7; 8:2).

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Greek Translation Deuterios (second) + Nomos (law). Originated from the *Septuagint* (LXX) translation of Deuteronomy 17:18, where it interprets "a copy of this law" as "a second law".

**Note: This is not a replacement of the Torah
First 5 Books of the Law.**


Lesson Context: Matthew

Roughly fourteen centuries pass before the descendants from the nation that received the Law of Moses, receives the Gospel of Matthew.

In that long interval, the Law of Moses received various “creative” reinterpretations (compare Matthew 23:13–26; Mark 7:8–13).

Two of the four Synoptic Gospels

QUESTIONS?

- 1. Beyond material possessions, What kind of things do you want your heirs to inherit?**
 - 2. How does the hope of an eternal inheritance change your perspective, goals, or direction?**
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- The bottom of the slide features a decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal, wavy bands. From top to bottom, the colors are dark blue, a thin red line, dark blue, a thin yellow line, and dark blue.

Deuteronomy 15:1-2 NIV

1 At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts.

2 This is how it is to be done: Every creditor shall cancel any loan they have made to a fellow Israelite. They shall not require payment from anyone among their own people, because the Lord's time for canceling debts has been proclaimed.

Deuteronomy 15:3-4 NIV

3. You may require payment from a foreigner, but you must cancel any debt your fellow Israelite owes you.

4. However, there need be no poor people among you, for in the land the Lord your God is giving you to possess as your inheritance, he will richly bless you,

Deuteronomy 15:5-6 NIV

5. if only you fully obey the Lord your God and are careful to follow all these commands I am giving you today.

6. For the Lord, your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations, but none will rule over you.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8 NIV

7 If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them.

8 Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need

Deuteronomy 15: 9 NIV

9 Be careful not to harbor this wicked thought:

“The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near,” so that you do not show ill will toward the needy among your fellow Israelites and give them nothing. They may then appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of sin

Deuteronomy 15:10-11 NIV

10 Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.

11 There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore, I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.







Person in a dark puffer jacket and black pants standing on the left side of the room.

AERO
AEROPPOSITE

Person in a red hoodie and blue jeans holding a cardboard box.

Person in a dark suit jacket and dark pants handing a box.

OPEN

Person in a black and red hoodie walking towards the right.

EMS
CORPS

Stacks of cereal boxes and other food supplies on the left side of the room.

Stacks of large brown paper bags on the right side of the room.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- 1. God's promise of blessings is conditional.**
- 2. Obedience yields protection & prosperity.**
- 3. God is faithful and expects his children to consider his blessings. Ps. 145: 14-18.**
- 4. When we follow God's instructions, He fulfills our needs & blesses our good deeds.**



SELF - REFLECTION

Have you ever experienced a “hardening” of your heart toward a poor or needy person?

What helps you to have empathy / compassion to others?

Giving In Gratitude Summary

God gives more than enough of supplies and blessings to his children. Even if your wealth isn't material in nature, you have gifts and treasures within you. What has God given you to share? How can you use your "wealth" to bless others?

Willfully sharing your gifts to those in need with a *grateful heart* is a sign of obedience and Gratitude to God.

WOMENS HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT

MARY ANN
WRIGHT
1921 - 2009

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*“I’m a ship
without a sail,
and by God’s
grace, I’ve come
a long way.”*

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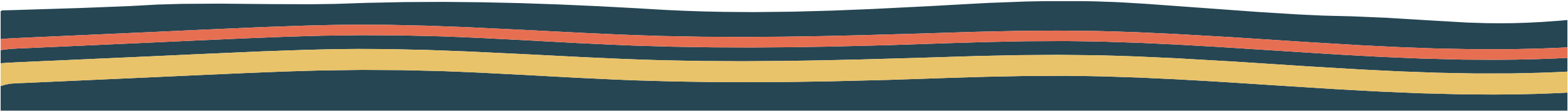


MOTHER MARY ANN WRIGHT

Giving to the Lord (Matthew 25:42–45)

The literary context for this passage begins in Matthew 25:31, where Jesus identifies himself as the “Son of Man” who comes in glory. He then describes an elaborate sorting (25:32–45)

Today’s passage Matthew 25:42–45 focuses on the reason for their separation.



Matthew 25: 31-33 NIV

An Introduction to The Sheep and the Goats

31“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne.

32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left

Matthew 25: 42 - 43 NIV

42 For I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink,

43. I was a stranger, and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes, and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

Matthew 25: 44 - 45 NIV

44“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

45“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

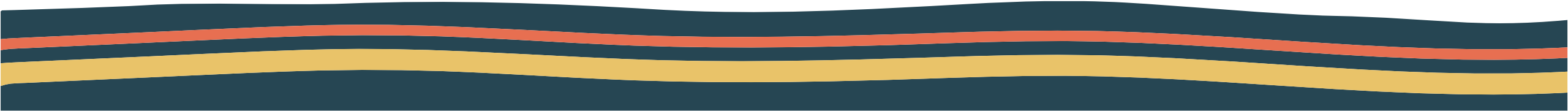
QUESTIONS?

1. What is the significance of Jesus prioritizing humility over religious performance in the context of final judgment?
2. What is the deeper meaning of Jesus saying, “**Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me**”

QUESTIONS?

1. Have you ever felt as if you encountered Jesus through an interaction with someone?

The Lord in the person Holy Spirit will speak to your heart when you least expect it.



KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

God calls his people to pay particular attention to orphans, widows, the poor, the needy.

**Giving is an act of worship, spiritual maturity
Includes generosity to those in need.**

**Benevolence helps us remember that our
abundance and blessings come from the Lord**

LIFE APPLICATION

The faithfulness of God's people hinges on their treatment of the least of these. Judgment does not consider our knowledge, fame, or fortune.

It is based on the help we give to others as an indicator of the grace we ourselves receive.

To neglect those who are suffering is to neglect the Lord



Study Guides & Resources

1. **New Interpreters Bible – NIV**
2. **Jesus and The Disinherited – *Howard Thurman***
3. ***NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible***
4. **Deuteronomy A Loving Obedience To A Loving God**
Ajith Fernando



Study Guides & Resources

5. Bible Study Guide – Elements of Exegesis -

Michael J. Gorman

6. Deuteronomy – Abingdon O.T. Commentaries

W. Brueggemann



Next Sunday March 1st, 2026

Welcoming Others in Christ

Devotional Reading: Colossians 3:1–11

STUDY: Acts 10:9–15, 30–35 - Galatians 3:28–29

Instructor: Michael McCants