

The Gospel in Action



Week Eleven

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Matthew 25:31–46



See videos at
www.inverseible.org/SDAH11-a

PRESSING SOCIETAL ISSUES

Early Adventist pioneers were so involved with the abolitionist movement that to be an Adventist also meant being an abolitionist. Only a misunderstanding of our history would lead someone to say today's church should avoid the societal issues that impact our communities.

The first GC president, John Byington, used his farm as a stop on the Underground Railroad, helping slaves escape to the free North. *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* was banned in the South due to the strong anti-slavery stance its articles took. James White, J.N. Andrews, J.N. Loughborough, and Uriah Smith all strongly denounced the U.S. government for condoning both slavery and the treatment of free African Americans.

Ellen White advocated for breaking the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, which required people to return escaped slaves to their masters even if they were in a free state (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1 [1855], 201). She also believed the church should disfellowship people who sympathized with the slave institution so that the church's reputation might be protected (*Ibid.*, 359). Our early pioneers were counter-cultural not only in their beliefs about the Sabbath and the sanctuary but also in areas of biblically supported societal reforms. The church later got involved in the temperance movement, which advocated for alcohol to be banned.

This brief overview of our history depicts a church that was wholistic in both theology and practicality. It's important to learn from our spiritual predecessors to see how we can identify, adapt, and apply biblically mandated principles to our own lives.

Handwriting practice area with a grid of dots.



inScribe

Write out Matthew 25:31–46 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out a portion of the primary passage. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How does the parable of the sheep and goats teach us to get ready for Jesus' second coming?

How can we move beyond helping people just because we want others to notice?



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After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How can we find a balance between posting about the work we're doing for God to influence and inspire others and posting to gain attention and shed light on how good we are?



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What relationship do the following verses have with Matthew 25:31–46?

- 1 John 4:7
- Matthew 7:12
- Proverbs 24:11
- Matthew 7:21–23
- Matthew 5:43–48
- Micah 6:8
- John 13:35
- Galatians 6:2

What other verses come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Review your memorized verse from Matthew 25:31–46.



inVite

Meditate on the primary passage again and look for where Jesus is.



What is true success in God's eyes?

How can we be sure we're serving for the right reasons even if we're praised or rewarded for that service?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through these texts?

Prayer Response:



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The Gospel in Action



Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?

→
After this week's study of
the chapter, what are some
personal applications you are
convicted of in your life?

What are some practical
applications you must
make in your school, family,
workplace, and church life?



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
www.inverseible.org/SDAH11-7



inQuire

Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



What criteria does Jesus use to separate the nations when He judges?

What do we learn about Jesus' character from Him identifying Himself so closely with the lowest people of society?

What are some things that cause us to be distant from the very people we are called to minister to?

How can we navigate around the challenges that might prevent us from ministering to the needy?

Edson White's conversion led him to minister in one of the most challenging areas of his time. How should we respond when we see a very challenging mission field?

What motives should we have when we serve? What should we do when we realize we're serving for the wrong reasons?