

## Mercy Ministry

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2 Holocaust Memorial Day: Sun April 23. *Murr Town Square Park*. 1:15-5pm. *Steve Wilson*
- B. Slide3 Empowered to Connect, *Live Simulcast*: This Fri/Sat here at CM. [Register online](#).
- C. Slide4 Sun Night of Prayer: Tonight 6:30-7:30pm. [Agape room](#).
- D. Prayer: Lar doing well in Iraq, feeding folks with Partners.

### II. Slide5,6 **Intro:** *sheep & goat judgment*

- A. Slide7 Jesus has been talking about, *How to wait for the end*. *How to wait for His return*.
- B. Slide8 **Timing:** The **Millennium** is sandwiched between **2 bookends of Judgment**.
  1. This judgment of the Gentile Nations are at the **beginning** of the Mill.
  2. The White Throne Judgment is **after** the Mill.
    - a) Prov.10:30 *The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not inhabit the earth*
- C. Slide9 Nearly all flocks in the East consist of **sheep and goats**, for both are needed. White **sheep** supply the wool for clothing **and goats** supply the hair for tents, bags and ropes. Both first family with milk which is made into butter and cheese, the chief food.

### III. Slide10 **MERCY MINISTRY (31-46)**

- A. Slide11 So we have **The Separator** (31) **The Savior** himself will occupy this role. **The Separation** (32,33) **The goats** (lost people) will be placed on his left hand. **And the sheep** (saved people) on his right hand. **And The Separated** (34-46).
  1. **The Sheep** will be rewarded.
    - a) **The contents** (34) They will receive the **Kingdom**, prepared for them from the foundation of the world. **The cause** (35,36) It is due to their **mercy ministry** in feeding, clothing, caring for, and even assisting **Jesus** in prison. **The confusion** (37-39) The saved asked, when all this took place? **The clarification** (40) Jesus says it's when they ministered to *others*, they ministered to **him**.
  2. **The Goats** will be punished.

- a) **The contents** (41) eternal hell. **The cause** (42,43) they **did not** minister to **Jesus**. **The confusion** (44) the unsaved ask when it was that they **did not** minister to **Jesus**. **The clarification** (45,46) Jesus says, because they **did not** minister to **others**, they **did not** minister to **him**.<sup>1</sup>

B. **Slide12** **The nations** - **or the Gentiles**.

1. **People**, other than Jews, who have lived through the Tribulation period.
2. They will be judged *individually*, **not** as national groups.
3. They are described as a mingling of **sheep/goats**, which the Lord will *separate*.
  - a) **The basis of their entrance is seen in their actions**, for they provided food, drink, clothing, and care for *the King*.
4. There will not be **sheep nations** and **goat nations**, **but sheep** separated from the **goats** in every nation.
5. **The sheep will have life eternal**; the **goats** will go away into eternal punishment

C. **Slide13 Note**: **both** the sheep and goats were surprised by Jesus's words.

1. They were not surprised at **the place** assigned them, **but** at **the reason** Jesus gives. **Both** didn't realize that **when** they did these things (**or didn't**), **that** they were doing (**or not doing**) them **onto Jesus**.
2. **Jesus identifies with His people**. *Saul, Saul, why do you persecute ME?*

D. The expression *My brethren* must refer to a **3rd group** that is **neither sheep nor goats**.

1. Most commentators say this must be **the Jews** in distress during the Tribulation period. **It is clear that any believing Jew will have a difficult time surviving during this time period**.
2. The forces of the world dictator will be doing everything possible to exterminate all Jews.
3. A **Gentile** going out of his way to assist a **Jew** in the Tribulation will mean that Gentile has become a believer in Jesus Christ during the Tribulation. **By such**

<sup>1</sup> The Outline Bible Outline, Mt.25:31-46

a stand and action, a believing Gentile will put his life in jeopardy. His works will not save him; but his works will reveal that he is redeemed.

4. So, they will be enemies of the Antichrist. They would suffer great persecution. They would not be able to buy or sell, and thus would be **hungry**. They would flee from their homes (Mt.24:15-21) and would **need places to stay**. Without jobs and without the mark of the beast, they could not secure **clothing** and would be **naked**. Many would be cast into **prison**.

a) Slide14 Jesus has already defined bro's & sis's in the Lord in Mt.12:49,50 *Jesus stretched out His hand toward His disciples & said, Here are My mother & My brothers! For whoever **does** the will of My Father in heaven is My brother / sister/ mother*

b) Jesus' 1/2 bro James said, *If a brother or sister is **naked and destitute of daily food**, and one of you says to them, Depart in peace, be warmed and filled, but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also **faith** by itself, if it does not have **works**, is dead.* 2:15-17

5. So are we only to show Mercy to Believers? **No way.**

a) Slide15 Lk.6:27-36 *But to you who are willing to listen, I say, **love your enemies!** **Do good** to those who hate you. 28 **Bless** those who curse you. **Pray for** those who hurt you. 29 *If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. 30 Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back. 31 Do to others as you would like them to do to you. Slide16 32 "If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! 34 And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return. 35 "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, **for He is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.** 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.**

(1) So, yes help out brothers & sisters *in the family*...but if you **only** help out family, you are **no better** than an unbeliever.

6. Slide17 So Jesus is all about *Mercy Ministry*...To the **believer** (our spiritual family) and To the **unbeliever** (our human family).

E. He invites the sheep *into His kingdom* because of their ministry to Him on earth.

1. They had fed Him. Quenched His thirst. Gave Him a room when He was homeless. Nursed him back to health when He was sick. Went and visited him while he was in a correctional facility.

2. Slide18 MSG, *whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me - you did it to me.*

a) Slide19 Author, Jo Saxton said, *Our theology impacts our anthropology and our anthropology mandates our sociology.*

Or, Our **theology/understanding of God** impacts our **anthropology/understanding of man** and our anthropology mandates our **sociology/understanding of society**. [that **aggregate** of people living in a *community*]

F. (35,36) *For I was hungry* (& *T,S,N,S,P*) - The actions described reflect obedience to the command *to love one's neighbor* - and thereby demonstrate love for God, as well.

G. (40) *one of the least of these* - Jesus' remarks here call for Christian care to reach all the way to the bottom of the *social structure*, thus inverting earthly *values*.

1. Often times when we see someone who is hungry, clothes are tattered, or are in need of shelter, and we tend to **label** them **instead of loving** them. We **criticize** them **instead of caring** for them. We **resent & run** from them **instead of reacting & responding** to them.

H. *The world is sick and tired of hearing of the love of Jesus, they want to see it.* Craig Groeschel

I. Christian kindness is to know no limits of race or class, it is to flow unceasingly & naturally, from a heart in complete *harmony* w/the will of God.

J. What's our point? What's our take away? What are we supposed to know, feel, do?

K. Slide20,21 Let me show an example. *Starling Murmuration*.

1. **What it is:** it's a collective motion of a large number of birds, in this case starlings.

2. **How it works:** there is not 1 leader. It's a collective movement. Each bird modifies its direction relative to the **6 or 7** directly surrounding it. It's a beautiful demonstration of **unity**.

a) A **humans reaction time** is usually between 150-250 milliseconds. [commercial. hair/arm]

b) A **starlings reaction time** is around 30 msec. *If startled...down to 15msec!*

3. **How it should be a picture of the church?**

L. **My dream...is a *Murrieta Murmuration!***

1. I see our church moving in murmuration, so connected with those around us that when we see **someone next to us** moving in the direction of **displaying love**, we'll move right with them. When they see **us** move towards **compassion**, they'll move with us.

2. **This also answers why we do church.** Church can't be about getting a great sermon **or** great worship...if so...**we'd all stay home & go online & choose our fav preacher & download his/her sermons & listen to them all day. We'd then listen to the best music put out by the most talented christian artists for our listening pleasure.** See, these **brick & mortar buildings** are about doing ministry as **a family**. It's living out the **one another** scriptures.

M. **My dream...is a *Murrieta Murmuration*** - where we as a church body...**see, feel, watch, & vibe** with the rhythm & movement of *the body of Christ* represented here.

1. **Where even** when the call comes to help others to **go to camp**, you give generously [7 3rd-5th grade retreat. 13 Mid Sch. 9 HS. 8 Ladies *formerly trafficked* from **Gen Hope** to women's retreat. **\$2800 total**, for single ladies & others ladies, paying 1/2 **or** whole]

N. **My dream...is a *Murrieta Murmuration*.**

1. **Where our church** hears of **wars &** runs towards them to heal the wounded or feed the famished. **Like Larry** in Iraq w/**Partners & FBR** helping those fleeing ISIS. Bringing with him over **\$24,000** because of **your** generosity.

2. **Where our church** hears of the **hungry & thirsty &** runs towards them to dig wells **like water4abillion &** to feed the starving **like MP, HEF & 5 Loaves**.

3. **Where our church** hears of **the stranger/ the foreigner/ the refugee &** runs towards them to make them **feel welcome**. **Like Andrew Lacasse** who

befriended a **Burmese pastor in SD** who is doing an **outreach on Easter** & needed **hygiene supplies** for **local refugees**...that he helped. **Like** those in our church helping & befriending **a local refugee family**.

4. **Where our church** finds our **Muslim neighbors** who have been *vilified* by so many in our country & befriends them **and** build bridges *instead of walls*. **Like Dave & Michelle Madden & their friends** who have been doing this for a few years now.
5. **Where our church** finds those with **tattered clothes** & runs to cloth them. **Like you** partnering w/HEF who will be handing out **suits** for our **Haitian pastors**.
6. **Where our church** hears of those **incarcerated** & weekly goes to SW Detention Center to *build up, teach, & befriend*. **Like Tony Murillo & his team** has for **20+ years**.
7. **Where our church** hears of those **sick** & runs to visit them, listen to them, pray for them, lay hands on them. **Like so many of you** just being the body of Christ.
  - a) **But really**...don't make this a **check list**. Jesus didn't mean *just these 6 categories*. It's being sensitive to **anyone & everyone** around you to help in meeting their needs. *A listening ear. Giving from your wealth. A sweet prayer for them. A sensitivity to express. A heart of compassion. a soul filled with empathy.*

O. **Slide22 My dream...is a *Murrieta Murmuration***.

1. **WHY?** **Because our story tells us**...it's **Jesus** who is digging in the trash for food. It's **Jesus** who is drinking unclean water. It's **Jesus** who is the stranger/ the foreigner/ the refugee. It's **Jesus** who has just 1 pair of pants. It's **Jesus** who is standing on the street corner **with** the offensive odor holding a cardboard sign. It's **Jesus** who you're sitting there listening to in the S/W jail.
2. **Slide23 Jesus** is communicating to us this morning church...**This** is what it is **To Know ME. To Love Me. To Worship Me.**
3. The only difference here is what they **did...or didn't do...to ME!**
4. **Slide24 This** is how we wait for **the end**. This is how to wait for **His return**.

P. **Communion:**