

Series: *God of this City – Week Four*

Loving People on the Margins

Isaiah 61:1-2a, Matthew 25:31-46

Introduction: Jesus came to love people on the margins of life and so should we, but it is critical that we see them so that we can serve them.

1. *FIRST PROPHECY: O.T. – Isaiah predicts that Jesus will love people on the margins of life. Isaiah 61:1-2a*

- A. The target for Jesus' ministry consists of four groups. 61:1-2a, 2c
- B. Jesus offers a word of good news. 61:1a, 2c
- C. Jesus' power comes from God the Father and the indwelling Holy Spirit. 61:1
- D. What do we learn from Jesus' example?

2. *SECOND PROPHECY: N.T. – Jesus takes it for granted that Christ-followers will love people on the margins of life. Matthew 25:34-46*

- A. The context – Jesus tells a parable about the sheep and the goats. 25:31-32
- B. Jesus gives this parable within a specific literary context.
- C. Big picture, universal principles.
- D. Second group displays their lack of faith by not serving. 25:41-46

3. *SO LET'S BRING THIS HOME – Some practical ideas for loving people on the margins.*

- A. Lesson number one: to love people on the margins, you've got to understand some things about their condition.
- B. Lesson number two: to love people on the margins, you've got to balance generosity and holding people accountable.
- C. Lesson number three: is a reminder.