

## **Water: A Cup of Mercy**

*Matthew 10:40-42, 25:31-46*

In both of these passages, Jesus uses the giving of a cup of water as an example and a symbol of an act of mercy. Jesus' words are often challenging and meant to bring us closer to the heart of God and into a deeper faith.

### **Extend the Mercy You Have Received**

- (1) Not optional
- (2) Arises out of faith responding to mercy (Matthew 25:34)
- (3) A matter of the heart (Matthew 25:37-39)
- (4) A grand inheritance or a frightening punishment

### **Understand the Priority of the Recipients**

"my brothers" in context refers to other believers

Three historic wrong turns:

- (1) "brothers" means everyone and the gospel is only a call to do good works with Jesus as the example
- (2) Limiting mercy only to believers
- (3) Neglecting mercy - faith is merely verbal affirmation

Biblical priorities:

- (1) Family (Mark 7:9-13, 1 Timothy 5:8)
- (2) Other Christians (Matthew 10 and 25, Hebrews 6:10)
- (3) Other people (Matthew 5:7, 43-48; 6:1-4)

### **Attend to Practical Application**

- (1) Giving to the ministry of the church
- (2) Support other ministries God puts on your heart
- (3) Respond directly with people God puts in your path