

WHO is “the LEAST of These My Brethren” (NEW Video) Matthew 25:31-46



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: *Who did Jesus mean by referring to the “Least, his brethren”? It’s crucial to our destiny to understand it. Would we be—if Christ was judging right now-- a sheep or a goat of Matthew 25? This teaching is an update with many real-life photos to make the point and introduce you to wonderful spirit-filled brethren in East Africa. Learn how you can actually help and give to Jesus himself, according to HIM. This teaching is deeper than you imagine, and if fully understood, will transform your life and amaze many of you.*

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Hello everyone. How would you like to lend to the LORD? And how would you like to be doing good things to Jesus himself, directly? Find out in this teaching today. It could change your whole viewpoint of things.

Proverbs 19:17

“He who has pity on the poor lends to YHVH,
And He will pay back what he has given.”

Learn how much God notices YOU when you DO something that shows you really do pity the poor, especially if they’re a part of the body of Christ. Jesus takes it so personally, probably much more and more intimately than you and I may have realized before. How generous are you to the ultra poor of the body of Christ?

Proverbs 28:27

“He who gives to the poor will not lack,
But he who hides his eyes will have many curses.”

Be turning to Matthew 25. Do you want to inherit the kingdom of God prepared for you? Are you sure you’re going to? Jesus told a well-known story about the two groups of people gathered before Him -- one who will inherit the kingdom of God – and the others in the other group, who will not. **Many of you may be shocked and surprised at what Jesus is actually saying in this passage (as some of you have said to me).**

I first gave this sermon in 2009. I was told in my spirit while praying about the sermon that I had entirely missed the main point – but the main point came to me as I re-did it. **WHO and where are the “least of these my brethren” – and are we helping them?**

Matthew 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 **And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.**

34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, '**Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you** from the foundation of the world:

35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

WHO did he say was hungry? WHO did he say was thirsty? Who did he say was a stranger who was taken in? Who did he say had no clothes and was sick? Who did he say was in prison? **WHO?**

And for WHOM were all these good deeds being done? He said "**I** was hungry, I was thirsty, **I** needed clothes **and YOU did something ... for ME.**" The righteous had no idea of what he was talking about as they had no awareness of it, but just did those wonderful things as their natural way of life anyway.

Matthew 25:37-40

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give **You** drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to ME.'

Of course we can be hungry for more than just food. Many are hungry for a friend, for acceptance or people who are concerned about them.

Matthew 25:41-46

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, (the GOATS) 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: '**42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'**

44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did NOT do it to one of the least of these, you did NOT do it to ME.' 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

What is Yeshua/Jesus SAYING here? “When my brethren, members of my body, needed help and you did not help them, it was like you weren’t willing to help ME! I saw you disregard their need. After all, many say, “they’re just Africans, or just Asians, and they’ll always need help.”

The second group, the “goats,” said basically, “**Lord, if we had REALIZED that it was YOU needing the help, we surely would have fed and clothed YOU.** We never saw YOU.”

And therein was – and IS -- the problem. With Believers all split up into various factions and continuing to split off, maybe we will find many of us also missing the main point Jesus was trying to explain.

We too often don’t recognize Jesus in the lives of others in other countries, or in other groups, especially when they’re not a part of our own church group.

The “goats” are people who don’t recognize the BODY OF Christ, in other words, they don’t recognize the family and brothers and sisters of Yeshua, of Jesus the Christ. The church brethren – **especially the least esteemed ones – are parts of his body; a part of HIM.** If we aren’t recognizing the broader family of Messiah, we could also end up missing his brothers and sisters in need – and in turn, we could end up missing Jesus HIMSELF.

Now let me ask us all, including me: Would you or I, based on what we’re doing now, be considered by Christ to be a Matthew 25 sheep or goat?

James 2:14-17

‘What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 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?**

17 **Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead”.**

“I’ll keep you in my thoughts and prayers. I hope things get better for you” is not enough. It’s not enough to thank them for sharing their need with you, as now you can pray for them, but if you don’t do anything to fix the problem, BIG deal. What have you really done?

Yeshua (Jesus) is also making the point that there is a place in His body for even the lowest of the brothers, even the poorest, even the farthest away, even the least educated – if they’re a part of my body, they have a PART in Him. Don’t dismiss them.

WHO make up the BODY of Christ?

Let’s identify first who compose the ‘brethren OF Christ’? Jesus talks about “MY Brethren.” When we receive God’s Holy Spirit, we are immersed/baptized into the BODY of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that ONE body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.”

You were immersed/BAPTIZED into one body. And whose body was that?

Ephesians 5:29-30

“For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the LORD does the church.

30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.”

Colossians 1:24 “...for the sake of his body, the church.”

Romans 12:5

“so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

And since Jesus/Yeshua is the son of God, if we are a part of HIM, of his body, that means we also are children of God. When Father looks at you and me – or any brethren from around the world who have His Spirit – Father should see Jesus, or Jesus in us.

So think of yourself, and really any church member with God’s spirit, as a body part, or member, of Jesus. You or another brother or sister in Christ, might be a finger, or the skin on the back, or a tongue, or an ear, or a hand or an armpit. One way or another, you are part of the holy body of Christ if the Holy Spirit is in you.

In the body of Christ, HE is the HEAD of His body (**Col. 1:18**). We are other body parts. Paul goes on in 1 Corinthians 12 to talk about the hand, the mouth, the feet and other body parts. We are a body part of Christ. We belong to HIM.

“WE” means ANYONE with God’s spirit. That makes us CHILDREN of God. Anyone GUIDED and LED by God’s spirit is a child of God. Period.

Romans 8:14

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

So having God’s spirit is what makes us part of God’s “true church.” It’s not that any brother or sister is part of any particular corporate church group.

I grew up in a church organization that for years taught they were the one and only true Church of God. Nobody else. No other group. I can’t believe that anymore. That one “true church” has since split into many different organizations – so now what?

What we’re taught in scripture is that if someone has God’s spirit, He is automatically a part of the body of Christ, a child of God, and a part of the real true church or assembly of called-out ones.

Therefore whatever you and I do to someone like that, whether good or bad, we are actually doing to Jesus himself, according to HIM in Matthew 25.

Matthew 25:37-40

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give **You** drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40 **And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to ME.'**

Yeshua/Jesus identifies INTIMATELY with his brothers and sisters, as if we're doing – or not doing – everything to HIM.

SO WHO IS The LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN IN PRACTICE?

Ready? It's HIM. It's including Jesus. EVERY part of our body is appreciated and is part of what makes up what we are. So if we do good or bad things to a brother or sister of Christ, it's as if we're doing good or bad to Jesus HIMSELF. Like he said, "You did it to ME" (verse 40).

So Jesus includes himself in "the least of these of my brethren" – because EVERYONE who has God's spirit is IN Christ, whether he/she is a great person or a "least" person.

See "WHO IS Jesus?" slide.

Don't get me wrong: Yeshua is also the GREATEST, under only the Father (1 Cor. 15:27-28) . HE is the king of Kings. He is the ROCK of our salvation. HE is the Lord of Lords. He is God. He is SAVIOR. He is our LORD. He is our MASTER. I am his slave and servant. HE's the greatest. AMEN.

I do "get" all that greatness of Christ, but do you also realize Christ is also in "the LEAST of these my brethren?"

But herein is a problem: your organization may not OFFICIALLY teach they are the only church of God, but IN PRACTICE some of them frown on anyone speaking with or helping anyone outside their organization. I've done that at times too. It's easy to do.

You and I could end up refusing to help Jesus himself because we don't recognize HIS presence and activity in miserably POOR brethren – or the illiterate, or those who don't speak English well... or who have no money to buy almost anything!

But we all have to realize: if someone has God's spirit working in them, they are part of the children of God, or part of Christ's Body - the CHURCH of God.

And Jesus says if his brother or sister can use some help, and you help – you're helping Jesus himself. Or if we do nothing, we could be refusing to help Jesus/Yeshua himself.

Don't be ashamed of any brother or sister of Christ or to be seen with them. If a person has repented and are in Christ, Jesus is not ashamed of that person or to identify with him. Remember Jesus was a FRIEND of sinners while on the earth! He ate with them. He healed them. He loved them. So he's not ashamed of his brothers and sisters – and neither should we ever be.

Hebrews 2:11-13

11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason *He is not ashamed to call them brethren*, 12 saying:

"I will declare Your name to My brethren;

In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

13 And again: "I will put My trust in Him."

And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."

Again, look whom Jesus declares to be His brothers and sisters.

Mark 3:33-35

But He [Jesus] answered them, saying, "Who is My mother, or My brothers?" 34 And He looked around in a circle at those who sat about Him, and said, **"Here are My mother and My brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother."**

Philippians 2:3 says we are to ESTEEM others more highly than ourselves. This surely must include the very poor brethren in other parts of the world! And one another. But I've found brethren – and even a pastor unwilling to do that, because he didn't think they WERE in fact better than himself. Hard to believe. That is being so proud.

Look at a lesson from the city of Corinth in regard to how people treated one another in the season of Passover. **Remember who "the Lord's body" is: it's anyone who is led by God's spirit. It's the true church members of the true body of Christ.** We each make up one part of his one body (**see 1 Cor. 12:12, 27**).

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, ***not discerning the Lord's body [meaning "the church" – Col 1:24b]***

30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world."

ONE REASON so many are not getting healed – and some even die – is because the group, not necessarily that individual who is sick – but the group is not

DISCERNING The LORD'S BODY, meaning the other church members who have God's spirit.

They're not seeing Jesus in some brethren and so don't honor them.

Instead of "not discerning the Lord's body," other translations say:

NIV says "not RECOGNIZING the body of the Lord"

NLT says "not HONORING the body of Christ"

So the goats of Matthew 25 who did nothing to help the poor least brethren— did nothing because they did not recognize those brethren as being Jesus, or being part of Jesus' body. And when someone is so uneducated, so poor, so different from us – it's easy to dismiss them as insignificant.

So we're being told here that Jesus takes it very personally when we don't honor HIM by ... BY not honoring his brethren who so badly need some help, your help. Some have no food. Most have no drinking water taps like we have. I'll show pictures later of how they get drinking water.

Remember what Jesus said? "**I** was hungry... **I** was thirsty ... I was a stranger and I would have loved to have some friends and be accepted... I was naked ... I needed clothes ... I was lonely, I was in jail..." --- and did you and I do anything? ***Or did we totally miss that the LEAST BRETHREN pictured Jesus himself?***

Remember Yeshua's words: "You did it unto ME."

Again, if you KNEW that it was Jesus HIMSELF who needed help, wouldn't you help him? Of course you would. And I would. Herein is the problem.

There are many incredibly poor brethren who have God's spirit, who are certainly a part of the BODY OF Christ, who are not receiving the help as much as we westerners could be giving them – and therein, be giving to Yeshua himself. So we're not discerning that even THEY picture Christ; Even THEY are the LORD's BODY. They don't look like or dress like or talk like the "brethren" you're use to being with and seeing – so we disregard them. We don't discern who they really represent: the very body of Christ, just like other brethren.

You want to hear God's blessing for having helped Jesus? I mean helping Jesus directly. Let's look at one more example to prove the point. Here at LOTR we are desperately trying to give our East African brethren a great hall to meet in, to hear God's word, to have clean drinking water, to have latrines to go to.... And we *desperately* need some help in giving Jesus and His body, all of these things. Jesus. You heard me right.

SAUL'S CALLING

Here's a clear example to make the point that Jesus considers his brethren in his church to actually be HIMSELF - by the way we honor or mistreat them.

You probably know that apostle Paul was once called SAUL. He was a very super zealous PHARISEE who hated the new sect of CHRISTIANS who followed Jesus, and who called him "the Anointed one," the Christ, the Messiah. So Saul got busy dragging men and women to jail. He consented to the stoning to death of Stephen. He beat Christians. He hurt them. He hated them and yes, even murdered some (Acts 22:4; 9:1).

The Son of God decided to call Saul – who later went by the name Paul (which meant “Little”). Now understand better the words spoken by Jesus.

Acts 9:1-9

“Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting ME?"

5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?"

Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

WHAT was Jesus saying? “The men and women you are beating, tying up, hurting, jailing – those people are ME. **You’re doing that to ME**, because they are part of my BODY. They ARE ME. And I am in them. WHY are you hurting ME?”

6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. 8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.”

Brethren, it’s the SAME MESSAGE AS Matthew 25. Whatever we do to needy brethren, Jesus’ brothers and sisters, no matter where they live, Jesus is taking personally. For good or bad. So--- “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting ME?”

Would YOU like to be sure Jesus will say to YOU – “COME, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for YOU from the foundation of the world.” (Matthew 25:34-40). WHY? He will say v 35 – for I was hungry ...

Matthew 25:3-35

34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, '**Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you** from the foundation of the world:
35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

WHO did he say was hungry? WHO did he say was thirsty? Who did he say was a stranger who was taken in? Who did he say had no clothes and was sick? Who did he say was in prison? WHO? He didn’t say it was some poor dude in America or Kenya or anywhere else – but he will say HE was hungry, thirsty, a stranger – and

needing clothing – but He'll say, "YOU DID SOMETHING for ME, when you did it for that poor person!"

The Sheep, the righteous, won't remember doing all these things for HIM – v 37-39 – as they helped less fortunate people. This was just their natural way of life. Let's read it again:

Matthew 25:37-40

"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give **You** drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to ME.'

So you see, Yeshua/Jesus sees HIMSELF even in the very least of brethren, anywhere.

Jesus' BODY and HIS Brethren in Kenya, Tanzania and East Africa

At LOTR (Light on the Rock) -- we have been introduced to very zealous believers who want so badly to learn and live the truth, and they are responding. They love to learn. But never have I known people as a group and individually – who are so POOR as they are.

I know what "poor" is like. I was raised as a child in the Philippines. My dad was a missionary. But even our family was considered well off *by local Filipinos by comparison* because we lived in a decent wood home compared to others' bamboo huts and thatched roofs. *But even we had no taps, no running water, no shower or bath, no flush toilets, no FRIDGE, we had no phone, no electric stove, no screens on the windows.* No TV. Can you imagine? Even Mom's iron took coal. But at least we had a well for water – a pump well. And a comparably larger house than others.

Believe it or not, even then, the way we lived in the Philippines was a big step up from the way most Kenyan brethren with God's spirit have to live. Let me introduce you to more "least of these Christ's brethren in Kenya and Tanzania," and perhaps soon – even Malawi – all in East Africa. Hear me out.

In Kenya, these are baptized, sabbath-keeping brethren I'm talking about, your brothers and sisters who love Jesus and Abba our Father, with now **well over 1,600 family of God** and more coming – but they are so poor. They need help so badly. These certainly fit the "least of these MY – Christ's – brethren" category.

The every-day member in Kenya and Tanzania and their family make OUR poor in America, look rich. *Even the very poor in America have a fridge and stove, and running water, tap water, flush toilets – not in Kenya for the AVERAGE person.'*

OUR poor in America and Canada own a car – though it may be older, a bike, smart phones, have a microwave, and wear decent clothing. Even my wife's own car is 21 years old.

But NONE of our brethren with LOTR – 1600 of them - - in Kenya own even a bike, a car, microwave and only 5-6 of the 1,600 we have attending even own a smart phone – and most of those are phones LOTR bought.

Most of the money I do send over I prioritize for the overall church needs and I simply don't have enough to help much with *personal* needs like food and clothing, though we have, and we do, in severe cases.

By “**church needs**,” I mean I want to provide a safe building to meet in, chairs to sit on – for starters. Sometimes we buy RADIO time. One of our congregations meets in a building in **MBANI** – and it is collapsing. They urgently need a new one. I also sometimes have to buy a good copier so those who don't speak English can read the Swahili translations we've made.

It's not uncommon for some congregations to have to meet under trees or outside in the open as they have no meeting hall and no money to rent a hall if they even have one in their village. Remember in Kenya it can rain heavily or be very hot. Can you help Jesus' brothers and sisters meet in a building with a roof over their head? How would you like to attend church services outside in the hot sun or heavy rain? (THERE'S MUCH more in the VIDEO – also showing lots of PICTURES.)

We could sure use some help in helping the least of these Christ's brethren have a meeting place, have chairs and so on. We have 4 or 5 regular monthly donors, and that's it. Plus some who donate here and there, now and again.

INCOME: If they can find work, most earn about \$1.50 or \$2 a day. That's barely enough to supply something to eat for the family and nothing left for anything else. Almost all the brethren there **eat just ONE meal a day** – in the evening. They don't have the money for any more than that. I don't see anyone fat among our brothers and sisters.

SOME few might earn \$4 a day or \$20 a week. These might dress better, or afford to send their children to school – *IF they can afford the mandatory school UNIFORMS and school fees.* But no free lunch. (PHOTOS)

You know how over here in America, if we want certain food, we just buy it. Or if we want to try a new drink, we just buy it. Or if we see a dress or shirt we like – we just buy it unless it's super expensive. It's not like that over there. There's no extra MONEY for hardly anything. And food? They're lucky to have the one full meal each day. They'd consider that being blessed and sometimes there's no money for any food some days. Hopefully, we can help these families and little children too.

Mark 9:35-37

“And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “If anyone desires to be first, **he shall be last of all and servant OF ALL.**” 36 Then He took a ***little child and set him in the midst of them.*** And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them,

37 “***Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.***”

As you read that above, can you “hear” Matthew 25 with Jesus saying, “I was hungry and you gave the least of these something to eat, or money to buy some food....and I consider that being done for ME!” **Mark 9:41** says just giving a cup of water in Jesus' name earns you a reward!

Story of SOLOMON and Sylvia. One Kenyan brother had lost his job for refusing to work on God's sabbath, as he had learned about the sabbath. His wife Sylvia was pregnant. But now they had no food money since he hadn't been working. All I had on hand was \$35, which I sent them, so she could eat. They appreciated that so much. Now a couple months later, they've had the baby girl but even then, there were complications at child birth and she needed to be in the hospital with issues with her placenta etc. Again, they had no money for that and I was told without the medical help she received, she could have died. *We were able to save her life and help her because of faithful donors.*

How many people will Jesus/Yeshua be able to tell us someday who LIVED because we shared some money or food or medical assistance with them?

There's also a **blind man with some disability** who can't find work... and badly needs food money. I'm talking about SPIRIT-FILLED brothers of yours, brothers and sisters of Jesus – and Yeshua/Jesus takes it so personally when we help them.

If you help US help them, you'll know the money you send us at Light on the Rock will be safe and used for your intended use.

I don't take a single penny for my own use – except one man sends me a small amount each month for my own use. Other than that, we spend nothing from donations on ourselves. And I pay the Kenya ministers nothing except I try to help pay their travel expenses to teach the congregations in outlying areas. We have over 25 congregations now and over 1,600 people reporting in each sabbath.

I just heard from one of our pastors – Francis, who is also a school teacher. He just told me someone recently broke into his house and stole all his suits and clothes except a few. Fortunately, one of our regular donors has just sent in some money and so I can help Francis out so he can wear decent clothes to work. They don't have Goodwill stores over there with cheap used clothing.

How do people earn any money? Some men go into town, wait for someone to call out to them to do a day's work – watching goats, or weeding, painting, really it could be anything. *They get \$1.50 to \$2 when they find work.* So a typical brother there makes \$10 a week, or \$40 a month. Those better off may make \$70 a month– and with this they're supposed to buy food, pay rent, pay electricity bill, buy clothes, medical bills – **and malaria is rampant.**

So money they earn is barely enough to buy food day by day. **To even buy a Bible costs a week's wages! So almost nobody could afford to own a Bible – about \$12 with the case** – until one of our faithful donors, **Paul Gibson**, made a special point to focus on getting Bibles to as many as possible. Our goal was one Bible per family. We just don't have enough for every adult to have one. So they get to choose a Bible in their own language or dialect, and in the print size they need. In the photo we will show some receiving Bibles. Thank God, another group also helps with Bibles. (PHOTO – Bibles)

We HAND them their Bible. We don't just give them money for it, but we give them a literal Bible. Sometimes it gets emotional. One man said: "Now, finally, I can hold in my own hands a Bible, God's own word, in my own language. Wow. Praise God.' Wouldn't YOU love to be a part of that? *Please. Help us help them.* And by helping them, the living

Word of God Jesus the very Son of God, could say to you, “You gave even these, the least of these MY brethren, a Bible, and you did it unto me, unto Christ.”

TRANSPORT. NOBODY I know of in our LOTR groups even owns a car. Most of our American brethren own at least 1-2 cars per household. So they have to either walk or take a bus everywhere. But bus fare could be more than their hourly wage. And none of our members owns a motorbike or even a bicycle, as far as I know. So to get to the church meetings or our training meetings or the Feast days, we sometimes have to help them even GET TO church or our training halls.

We also urgently, ***urgently need MOSQUITO NETS.*** Malaria is rampant. Too many little children in Kenya are being buried. Most recently, **Mwita**, the 4-year old nephew of our pastor Francis, died after having malaria just two days! (PHOTOS of terribly grieving mom Natasha, burying Mwita).

They couldn't afford the cost of seeing a doctor or buying the right medicines. So little Mwita died. The look on the little boy's mom's face – Natasha – trying to put some dirt on the casket in the grave, breaks my heart. I cried. *I also have lost a son* and know the incredible sorrow and pain from that. I don't want to see any more die. That was the son of Natasha and Emmanuel – but I considered him MY son too because we're all of one. We're members of each other (**Rom 12:5**). **So I cried.** dropping soil on her 4 yr old (Mwita) son's grave.) They can't afford mosquito nets. We found a govt program that can help...but not everyone can get them.

We also have another woman who lost her two young boys to malaria – and then 2 weeks after the 2nd one died, she herself had a massive stroke and is largely disabled.

WATER. When you and I want water, we just go to one of many taps in the house, turn the handle or faucet and there's good clean water. I'm not aware of any of our LOTR brethren in Kenya and East Africa who have a single tap to turn on. No outdoor faucets either. (SHOW PHOTOS of collecting drinking water in brown pond.)

If they want water, they have to carry buckets to a pond, stream or dam and fill them up with the brown water, boil them at home and hope they're good to drink. For a shower or bath, it's water from the buckets.

For the Feast of Tabernacles, we installed large water tanks on the main meeting places. The water came from the rain-washed roofs first. Otherwise they'd have had to bring buckets of water from a brown pool or stream.

We've helped provide a few wells

SABBATH CHURCH SERVICES For church services, many are in mud buildings with thatched roofs or some have iron sheet roofing. Some have no windows or doors; just holes in the mud walls. We bought some windows for Kitembe and other places. Can you be moved to help me provide nice chairs to sit on and windows and doors on the buildings?

“BATHROOM” or TOILET -- is a pit latrine. No chair to sit on. Here's a photo of a pit latrine in Nyakach for 52 men and women to use. I'm changing it and giving them money for a much better latrine. We changed the latrine in Omoringamu to this one with separate doors for men and women and more privacy and roof from the rain. But these cost a few hundred dollars for wood, roof, cement, etc. (SEE VIDEO)

Would you help me provide nicer latrines for the other brethren? No, let me rephrase that, *would you help me provide a good latrine for the Least of these Christ's brethren – and do so unto Christ himself? Are we getting the point of what Jesus really said?*

Story of the minister's wife "going" out in the wet bushes from the rain, no latrine.

When you help us, we verify who gets some money. RECEIPTS are required, plus a photo of what they bought, confirmed by ministers and other brethren in other areas... so the SCAMMING you probably have heard about is controlled and not happening for us now like maybe years ago. *Your money you send us will be used for Jesus Christ!*

FEAST OF TABERNACLES – NOT AT ALL LIKES YOURS.

When WE plan for our Feast of Tabernacles, we pick a city to attend in, fly or drive there, stay in a very nice hotel or motel with our family. Then we eat out at nice restaurants. ALL of that's impossible for our East African brethren. Nobody has a car to drive to a feast site. So they ride a bus, or walk. Not everyone can get there without some help for transport.

MOTEL? No. There are lots of motels, but no one can afford a room for even one day, let alone 8 or 9 days for the family. So we put them up in the meeting rooms or whatever we could find. They sleep on mattresses we bought -like camping mattresses. Men and boys in one room, and women and girls in another. They are used to not being together with their families. We have no other option. Of course we don't have running water for showers and toilets. But they use a latrine.

We did buy a large water tank for their use for clean drinking water.

After morning services, in America we go out to eat with brethren and then go sightseeing or shopping or something. Not in Kenya. They stay and talk Bible the whole time. No money and no car – what else can they do?

Romans 12:5

“So we being MANY are ONE body IN Christ and members of one another.”

Remember that the Matthew 25 “**goats on the left**” -- if they even were aware of a need at all, just ignored it. They did nothing. Look at what happened to them! **Don't risk that being you. When we know to do good, but don't** – that is a sin (**James 4:17**). We have to DO something to show Jesus we care.

1 John 3:16-18

“By this we know love because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17 But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and ***shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?***

WE have food in our pantry, in the fridge, in the freezer...but do we just shut that all up? It's ***not enough just to say, “I'll keep you in my thoughts and prayers. I hope things get better for you” (James 2:14-17).***

18 **My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.**

WE DO carefully VERIFY The USE OF FUNDS sent to us

People have been reluctant to help with money for Africa. Yes, there have been some who scammed in the past. But I don't know how more careful WE can be. Other ministers vouch.... Send receipts, send photos of what they bought. And frankly, people are being kept ALIVE today in Kenya because of the food, medical and financial help we give them.

I'M ALSO INSISTING the groups do EVERYTHING THEY CAN to come up with part of the cost of the chairs, or latrines, or building...

Some are trying to generate group money to help pay for things they need. They plant corn, then sell the corn for money for the group. But they don't own land, so have to rent the land. And they need SEED money, fertilizer, and money for tools so it's hard for them to even generate their own funds without some initial help. I could sure use your help.

But since we're growing so fast and help is badly needed for mosquito nets, bus fare to get to services, food in emergencies, money to help pastors visit outlying areas, paper and ink for photocopies of our translations in Swahili, hospitalization or doctor care... we truly could use some help on a regular monthly basis if possible, even if it's a small monthly amount. If a lot of you respond, even smaller amounts add up. I am SO grateful too for those very few who send hundreds every month, as that is certainly put to effective use to save lives and help the church of God grow.

Remember, as Jesus said, your help is really going to Jesus Christ himself, directly.

Sure, we all know Jesus as King of kings, Lord of Lords, Savior, Master, the Vine, the Lion of Judah, Salvation, the Rock – sure. But he's "all in all," and as such, he is also "the LEAST of these my brethren" because they are also a part of Him, and are in him.

So I'm hoping some of you will feel in your heart to send help each month and help these people have at least ONE MEAL a day for themselves and family.

Proverbs 19:17

"He who has pity on the poor lends to YHVH,
And He will pay back what he has given."

REMINDER: When we DON'T do anything to help when we can, we fall into the "goats" category of people who did nothing and were cast out – in Matthew 25. They didn't recognize Jesus standing right in front of them, badly needing some help, camouflaged as a brother or sister.

Sure, sometimes we just don't feel like helping someone out. Maybe we feel some do stupid things and we feel they deserve what's coming to them and so don't help. Or maybe we have judged they could try harder, work harder, and so we do nothing. We don't help. And Jesus says, "I was needy, and you did nothing—unto ME."

So which one are you? Are you one of the Sheep on the right, or one of the goats on the left? Remember that the goats SEE there's a problem, hear about the problem, but ... do nothing to help Christ's needy brethren. *The goats do nothing to help the very needy brethren.*

Philippians 2:3-4

*“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, **but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.** 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

Anyway, I hope you'll give this careful thought. Help me please, to spiritually and physically feed when necessary – our extremely poor brothers and sisters in East Africa. And now we have hundreds wanting to learn from LOTR from MALAWI as well.

If you want to give help to Jesus, and to his brothers and sisters, just go to www.lightontherock.org. At the very top line, in the middle, you'll see a **DONATE** tab. You can click there, or you can scroll down very slightly to see a larger DONATE button. Click on that and you'll have the choice to either pay through PayPal or credit card. Thank you so much.

You can also send financial help to me for Light on the Rock through ZELLE. Your bank app should already be set up for Zelle. Zelle does not take any percentage like PayPal does.

You can also send a check made out to Light on the Rock. Email me for my address – pwshields2020@gmail.com

Caring for the poorest among us is crucial in God's eyes. Did you realize that one of the BIG REASONS that Sodom was destroyed was their indifference to the very poor! It wasn't just about perversions or sodomy. Don't let what we're about to read, be about us!

Ezekiel 16:48-50

*“As I live,” says YHVH God, “neither your sister Sodom nor her daughters have done as you and your daughters have done. 49 Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: ***She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.*** 50 And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.*

Now turn to Isaiah 58 . In my sermons I'm giving on healing and answered prayer, I believe one big reason we're not seeing more powerful healings and miracles than we do, is *because not being more generous to the poor and needy. When we start to do that, God will start to answer our prayers positively more often.*

Isaiah 58:6-8

*"Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness,
To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free,
And that you break every yoke?*

*7 **Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out;
When you see the naked, that you cover him,
And not hide yourself from your own flesh?***

**8 THEN your light shall break forth like the morning,
Your HEALING shall spring forth speedily,
And your righteousness shall go before you;**

The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.”

Hebrews 6:10

“For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

PRAISE GOD. I know some of you WILL respond and become donors – maybe regular monthly donors of any amount ... and in doing so, you will be SERVING Jesus The Messiah, the son of God HIMSELF. Hallelujah.

Closing prayer.