

**“At the Heart of Giving: COMPASSION”
Matthew 25:31-46**

Compassion:

“Feeling of pity inclining one to be helpful or show mercy”
Oxford Dictionary

JESUS EXPANDS THE DEFINITION

TO REMARKABLE LENGTHS IN MATTHEW 25:31-46

I. THE STANDARDIZED JUDGMENT (31-33)

- all peoples of all nations
- separated as sheep and goats

II. THE CRUCIAL TEST (34-36)

- you gave me food, drink
- you welcomed and clothed me
- you cared for me in sickness
- you visited me in prison

III. THE REMARKABLE ACTION (37-40)

- “eyes” of the heart at work
- validating practical help in the name of Jesus

IV. THE PREPARED REWARD (34, 46)

- the “kingdom” for some – not salvation by ‘works’ but ‘works’ reflecting the grace and presence of Jesus
- punishment for others

V. RELEVANCE TO MCBC

- A test of our ‘heart of compassion’
- There is a cost to COMPASSION
 - Radical ‘heart’ surgery
 - Inconvenience
 - Time and money
 - A risk factor / leaving the ‘safe’ place
 - Consistent commitment
- A challenge to our Care Groups