

Matthew 25: 31-40

King: (Colin) Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.

(Enter kids in two groups)

Joshua: Hey, what's with the cans of food?

Mackenzie: We're donating these to the food pantry, so kids just like us won't go to bed hungry.

Gabe: What's in those envelopes?

Anna: Are those birthday invitations?

Alison K: Is someone having a party?

Hannah: No, we're sending cards to the soldiers serving our country.

Santo: We made them in children's worship.

Katie B: We hope that when they read them, they'll know that someone cares about them even though they're far away.

Kyle: Oh, wow! What a cool toy!

Parke: Let's open it up!

Paige: This isn't for us to play with, silly. I'm donating it to Westerville Caring and Sharing.

Corynn: We picked a little girl's name from the Christmas tree in the back of the Narthex, and this is what she asked for.

Nina: I hope it will help her have a merry Christmas.

Katie K: What's the point in doing all of this stuff? You don't even know the people you're helping.

Erica: Because God is in all of us, and he wants us to love each other.

King: (Colin) Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

The Bible: Many Books in One

#1 Nina: Hey there! I got this great new Wii game for Christmas. Want to come over to play with us?

#2 Hannah: No thanks. I'm busy.

#1 Nina: What is that you're reading?

#2 Hannah: It's this amazing book. You should read it. It's a real page-turner. It's a mystery!

#3 Erica: What are YOU reading? Looks like you're really into it.

#4 Katie: Well, when I first picked it up, I thought it might be boring. But it turns out this book is a collection of love stories! You know I'm such a romantic at heart.

#5 Aimee: Look over here! It seems like we have *another* bookworm. What book are YOU reading?

#6 Gabe: Yeah, and is it *really* better than playing video games?

#7 Colin: It is WAY better than video games! I don't want to give too much away – you should read it, too. It's a great history book.

#8 Kailee: I love the *poetry* in the book I'm reading! It inspires me to write my own poems and songs. Move over, Justin Bieber! My stuff will be *divinely* inspired.

#9 Anna: You're thinking about being a writer after reading this, huh? I'm thinking about becoming a chef! I just found a recipe in this book!

#10 Hannah: Our class at school is writing letters to soldiers. So I was really excited when I started reading the letters in *this* book. I wonder if I can use big words like this when I write to my pen pal?

#11 Erica: Are you all nuts? You're reading a book instead of playing with your new Christmas presents? Maybe this is something we should take a look at.

#12 Colin: You should *definitely* read the book I've got! There are amazing stories about kings and queens and good and evil! It's even better than Harry Potter and Voldemort!

#13 Nina: Okay, okay! Just tell me already – what books are you reading? I'll try to make a list of them all and see if I can find them, too.

ALL AT ONCE: *The Bible!*

#14 Aimee: You're all reading the same book?

#15 Paige: That's right! We're all reading the Bible! It has something for everyone – mystery, love, poems, and best of all – a happy ending!

#16 Katie: You should read it with us! We're reading the entire New Testament at church this year. We can do it together!

#17 Erica: I think I'll go find the Bible at our house! Such an action-packed book – who knew? It's going to be a great year!

The Lord's Prayer

Erica: Our Father, who...

God: Yes?

Anna: Don't interrupt me! I'm praying.

God: But you called me.

Aidan: Called you? I didn't call you. I was praying. Our Father who art in heaven...

God: There, you did it again.

Brady: Did what?

God: Called me. You said, "Our Father who art in heaven." Here I am. What's on your mind?

Joshua: But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, sort of like getting a job done.

God: All right. Go on.

Nina: Hallowed be thy name...

God: Hold it! What do you mean by that?

May: By what?

God: By "hallowed be thy name"?

Jessie: It means...it means.... Good grief! How should I know what it means? It's just part of the prayer. (pause) By the way, what does it mean?

God: It means honoured, holy, wonderful.

Paige: Ah, that makes sense. I never thought about what hallowed meant before. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

God: Do you really mean that?

Aimee: Of course! Why not?

God: What are you going to do about it?

Kyle H: Do? Nothing, I suppose. I just think it would be rather good if you got control of things down here the way you have up there.

God: Have I got control of you?

Kaylee: Well, I go to church.

God: That isn't what I asked you. What about that bad temper? You've really got a problem there you know!

Mackenzie K: Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of those hypocrites down at the church!

God: Excuse me, but I thought you were praying for my will to be done? If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it. Like you, for example.

Erica: Oh, all right! I guess I do have a few hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I probably could name some others.

God: So could I.

Anna: I haven't thought about it much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I really would like to know how to be free.

God: Good! Now we're getting somewhere! We'll work together, you and I. Some real victories can be won. I'm proud of you!

Aidan: Look, Lord, I need to finish this up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does! Give us this day our daily bread .

God: You need to cut out the bread you're a little overweight as it is!

Brady: Hey! Wait a minute! What is this? Here I am doing my religious duty and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my faults!

God: Praying is a dangerous thing. You could end up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to bring across to you. You called me, and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep on praying. I'm interested in the next part of your prayer.(Pause) Well. go on!

Joshua: I'm scared to...

God: Scared of what?

Nina: I know what you'll say!

God: Try me and see.

May: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

God: What about Jimmy Jones?

Jessie: See! I knew you would bring him up! Why, Lord he told lies about me, and he cheated me out of some money. I swear that I'll get even with him.

God: But your prayer. What about your prayer?

Paige: I didn't mean it.

God: Well, at least you're honest! But it's not much fun carrying around that load of bitterness inside, is it?

Aimee: No, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even! Have I got some plans for old Jimmy!

God: You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you really are. But I'll change all that.

Kyle H: You will? How?

God: Forgive Jimmy. Then I'll forgive you. Then the hate and sin will be Jimmy's problem and not yours. You may lose the money, but you will have settled your heart.

Kaylee: It doesn't sound easy, but deep down, I know it would be worth the effort. Thank you, Lord, for helping me work through this. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. AMEN.

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