



CARING FOR THE 'LEAST'

Matthew 25:31-46,
Matthew 25:14-30

DSP Melvin Gan
8 September 2024

Introduction

- Prayer Segment for the Mid-Autumn Harvest Event



Living Sanctuary
圣殿福音教会

与黄嫫方庆中秋

Mid-Autumn Celebration with LINA NG

9月14日(星期六), 晚上7.00至9.00
14 Sept (Sat), 7pm to 9pm
2楼礼堂 L2 Auditorium

节目以华语进行 Programme is in Mandarin

简短福音分享, 食品摊位, 卡拉OK, 游戏, 现场乐队等!
A short gospel sharing, food stations, karaoke, games, live performances and more!

祝福抽奖 BLESSING DRAW
有机会赢取65"或55" 4K UHD 智慧电视机
Stand a chance to win a 65" or 55" 4K UHD Smart TV!

剪下并带回
Living Sanctuary 2/F L2 Auditorium
127-129, Upper Macao Road, Macao

请带此部分兑换
嘉年华礼券/
限量版巴士车票

Using this portion to redeem carnival coupon/ open-top bus tickets

畅游巴士之旅
先制购票, 只限200名乘客。
OPEN TOP BUS TOUR
For come 100 people for the 1st people!

The Judgment

³¹ “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory and majesty and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

³² All the nations will be gathered before Him [for judgment]; and He will separate them from one another, as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats;

MATTHEW 25:31-36 (AMP)



³³ and He will put the sheep on His right [the place of honor], and the goats on His left [the place of rejection]. ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father [you favored of God, appointed to eternal salvation], inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.



MATTHEW 25:31-36 (AMP)



³⁵ For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; ³⁶ I was naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me [with help and ministering care]; I was in prison, and you came to Me [ignoring personal danger].'



MATTHEW 25:31-36 (AMP)



THE KEY CHALLENGE:

**God calls us to care for the 'least'
and we all are in the position
to care for someone else
who has less than us.**





7 THOUGHTS ON CARING FOR THE 'LEAST':

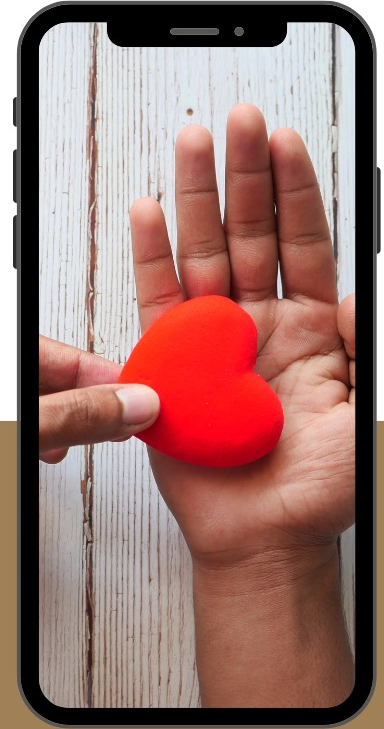
1.

UNDERSTANDING WHO ARE THE 'LEAST' AMONG US



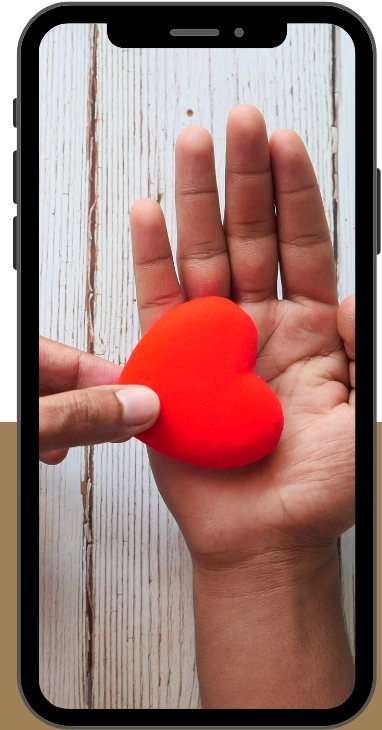
1. Understanding who are the 'Least' among us

- **Jesus was referring to the poor and needy.**



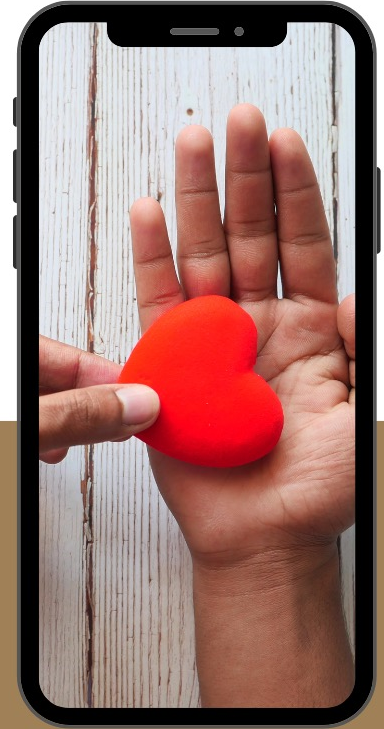
1. Understanding who are the 'Least' among us

- **Jesus was referring to the poor and needy.**
- **When Jesus spoke about caring for the least, He was commanding us to care for the poor and needy.**



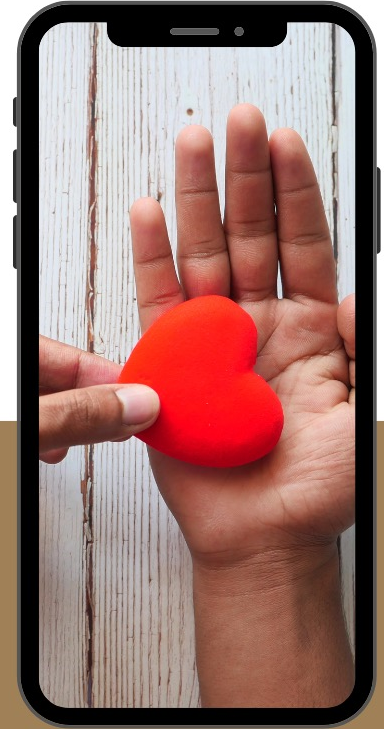
1. Understanding who are the 'Least' among us

- **He was also referring to those rejected by others.**



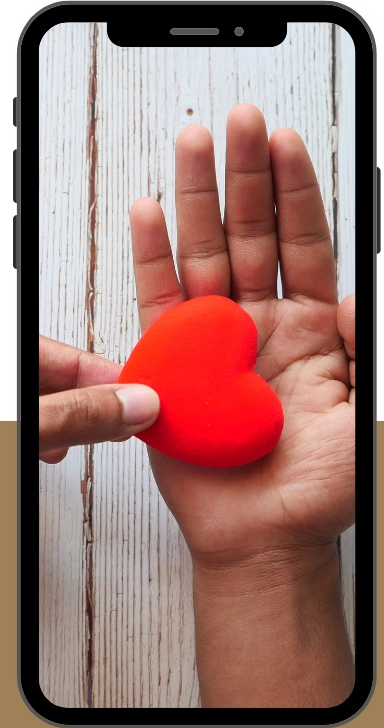
1. Understanding who are the 'Least' among us

- **I believe that Jesus was calling us to care for those who are rejected by society when he spoke about ministering to the prisoners and the sick.**



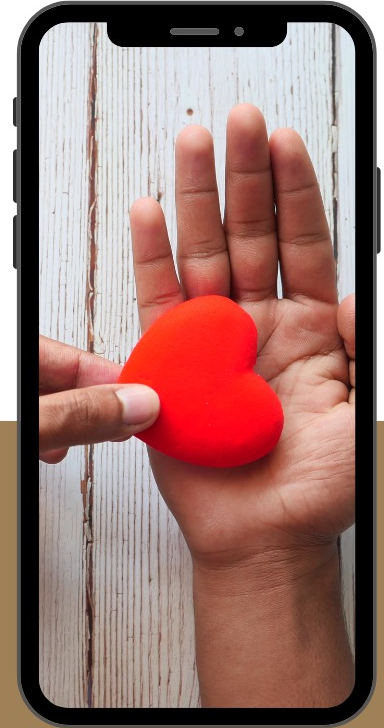
1. Understanding who are the 'Least' among us

- **They were the strangers**
- Jesus was referring to those who are different from us and we can sometimes treat them differently, even with disdain.



1. Understanding who are the 'Least' among us

- **When Jesus called us to care for the “least” among us, I believe that Jesus was referring to the poor, the needy, the rejected and the strangers.**



7 THOUGHTS ON CARING FOR THE 'LEAST':

2.

**GOD HAS NEVER INTENDED
FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE
AND BE THE SAME**



**2. God has never intended for everyone
to have and be the same**

- **With a perfect and impartial Heavenly Father, He loves us all the same, even though we are endowed differently.**



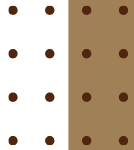
**There will always be poor people in the land.
Therefore I command you to be openhanded
toward your fellow Israelites who are poor
and needy in your land**



DEUTERONOMY 15:11 (NIV)

2. God has never intended for everyone to have and be the same

- **God has never meant for us to be endowed equally - materially, intellectually or gifting. And the better endowed should care for the others.**



Parable of the Talents

14 “For it is just like a man who was about to take a journey, and he called his servants together and entrusted them with his possessions. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and then he went on his journey.

MATTHEW 25:14-30 (AMP)



¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he [made a profit and] gained five more.

¹⁷ Likewise the one who had two [made a profit and] gained two more. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one went and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.



MATTHEW 25:14-30 (AMP)



19 “Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 And the one who had received the five talents came and brought him five more, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted to me five talents. See, I have [made a profit and] gained five more talents.’



MATTHEW 25:14-30 (AMP)



21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little, I will put you in charge of many things; share in the joy of your master.’



MATTHEW 25:14-30 (AMP)



22 “Also the one who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have [made a profit and] gained two more talents.’



MATTHEW 25:14-30 (AMP)



²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little, I will put you in charge of many things; share in the joy of your master.’



MATTHEW 25:14-30 (AMP)



24 “The one who had received one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a harsh and demanding man, reaping [the harvest] where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter seed.

25 So I was afraid [to lose the talent], and I went and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is your own.’



MATTHEW 25:14-30 (AMP)



**²⁶ “But his master answered him,
‘You wicked, lazy servant, you knew that
I reap [the harvest] where I did not sow and
gather where I did not scatter seed. ²⁷ Then
you ought to have put my money with the
bankers, and at my return I would have
received my money back with interest.**



MATTHEW 25:14-30 (AMP)



**²⁸ So take the talent away from him,
and give it to the one who
has the ten talents.'**



MATTHEW 25:14-30 (AMP)



29 “For to everyone who has [and values his blessings and gifts from God, and has used them wisely], more will be given, and [he will be richly supplied so that] he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have [because he has ignored or disregarded his blessings and gifts from God], even what he does have will be taken away.



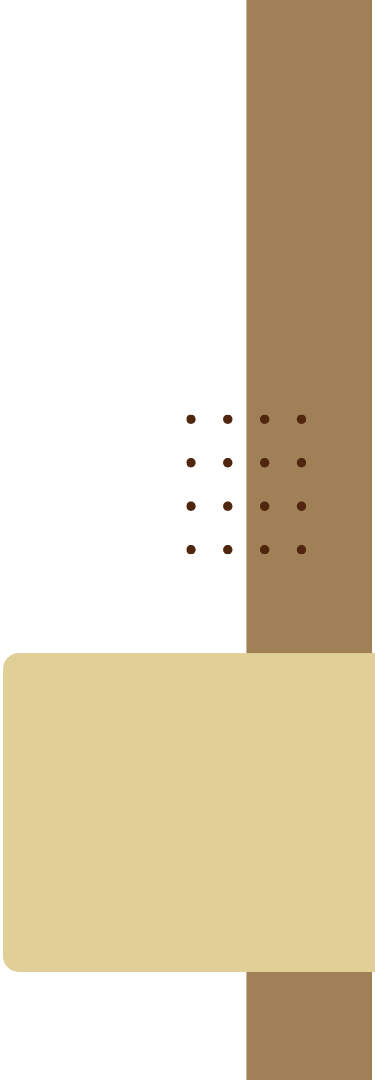
MATTHEW 25:14-30 (AMP)



**³⁰ And throw out the worthless servant
into the outer darkness; in that place
[of grief and torment] there will be
weeping [over sorrow and pain] and grinding
of teeth [over distress and anger].**



MATTHEW 25:14-30 (AMP)



2. God has never intended for everyone to have and be the same

- **God has never intended for us to have the same or be the same, and those who have less are not lesser to God.**

7 THOUGHTS ON CARING FOR THE 'LEAST':

3.

**THOSE WITH LESS ARE NOT
LESSER IN VALUE TO GOD**



3. Those with less are not lesser in value to God

- **Those of us who have less are not lesser in value to God.**





**“The poor and needy search for water,
but there is none; their tongues are parched
with thirst. But I the Lord will answer them;
I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.**



ISAIAH 41:17 (NIV)



Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?



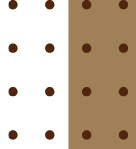
JAMES 2:5 (NIV)



²³ Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.



MATTHEW 19:23-24 (NIV)



3. Those with less are not lesser in value to God

- **God has never intended us to have the same, but yet at the same time, the poor, needy and vulnerable are not lesser in value to God.**



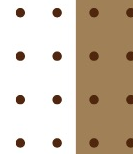
7 THOUGHTS ON CARING FOR THE 'LEAST':

4.

**GOD DESIRES FAITHFULNESS
AND DILIGENCE WITH THE PORTION
THAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN**



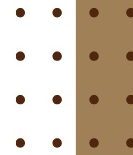
4. God desires faithfulness and diligence with the portion that we have been given



- We are given different portions and God desires that we be faithful and diligent with the portion that we have been given.**



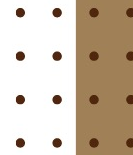
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- **The archaic use of the word “portion” can also refer to “a person’s destiny or lot”. It refers to what a person has been allotted with.**



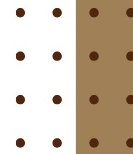
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- **What was Jesus trying to teach through the parable?**



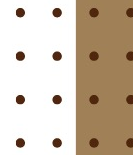
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- **Firstly, we can learn that God can give each one of us different number of talents.**



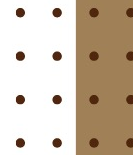
4. God desires faithfulness and diligence with the portion that we have been given



- **Secondly, faithfulness and diligence in doing something with what we have been given is more important than what we actually achieve for God.**



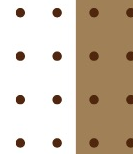
4. God desires faithfulness and diligence with the portion that we have been given



- **God desires faithfulness and diligence with the portion that we have been given.**



4. God desires faithfulness and diligence with the portion that we have been given



- **God blessed you more so that you can bless me!**

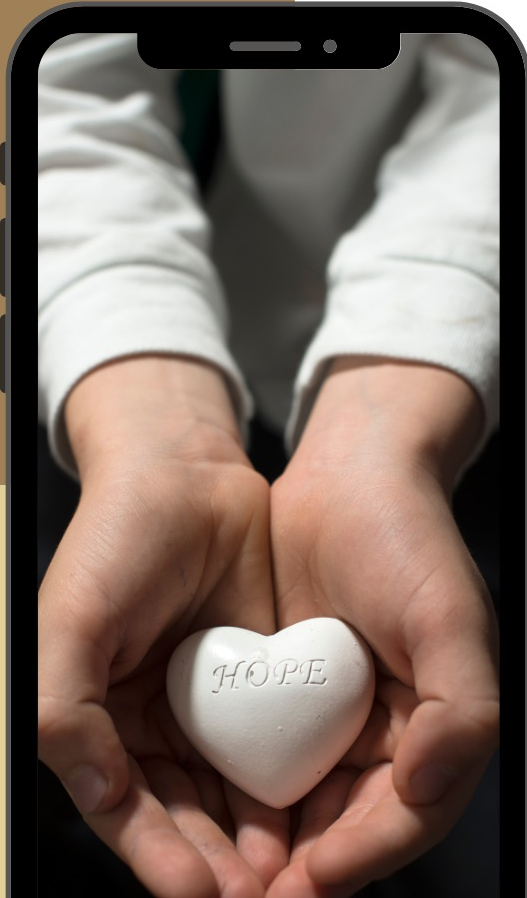


7 THOUGHTS ON CARING FOR THE 'LEAST':

5.
**GOD'S PLAN WAS FOR THE BLESSED
TO BLESS THE 'LEAST'**



5. God's plan was for the blessed to bless the 'least'



- **It is God's plan for those who are more blessed to pass on the blessing to those whom Jesus described as the 'least' or even those who have lesser than us.**





⁷ If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard hearted or tight-fisted toward them.
⁸ Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need.



DEUTERONOMY 15:7-8 (NIV)



**There will always be poor people in the land.
Therefore I command you to be openhanded
toward your fellow Israelites who are poor
and needy in your land.**



DEUTERONOMY 15:11 (NIV)

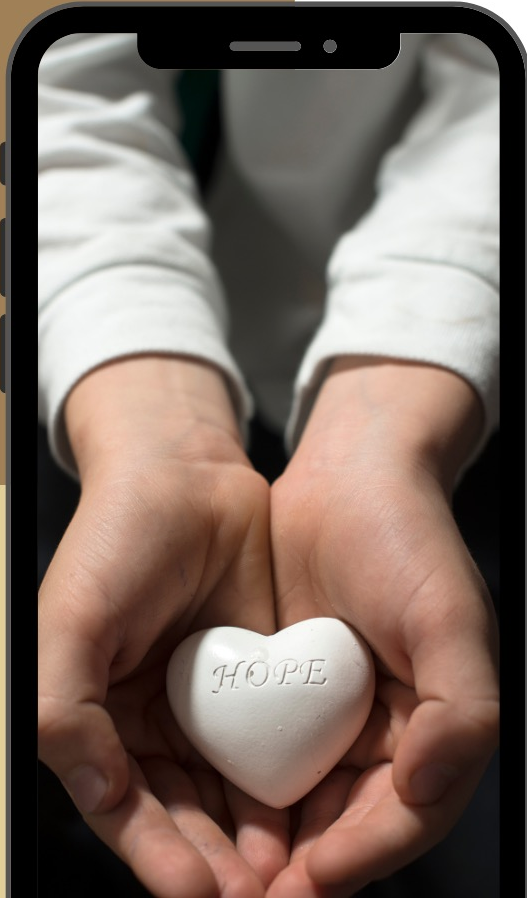


**Whoever is kind to the poor lends
to the Lord, and he will reward them
for what they have done**



PROVERBS 19:17 (NIV)

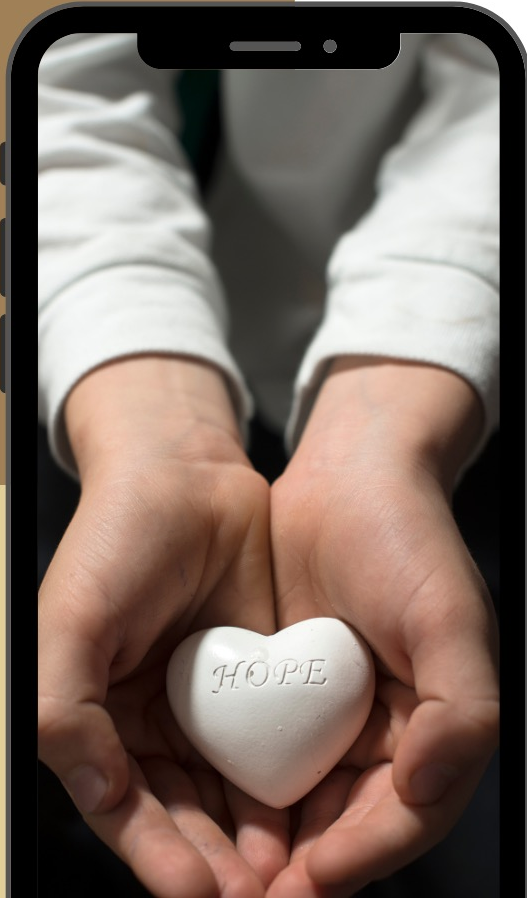
5. God's plan was for the blessed to bless the 'least'



- **This is the intention of God – that some will be blessed to bless those who have lesser.**



5. God's plan was for the blessed to bless the 'least'



- **We are to open up our hearts and lives to the rejected in our society and also the strangers in our society.**





7 THOUGHTS ON CARING FOR THE 'LEAST':

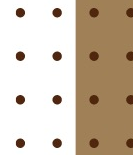
6.

**CARING FOR THE 'LEAST' IS A STERN
CALL, NOT JUST A SUGGESTION**



6. Caring for the 'least' is a stern call, not just a suggestion

- **Caring for the 'least' is not a suggestion, but a stern call by the Lord.**





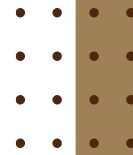
In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.



MATTHEW 5:16 (NIV)

6. Caring for the 'least' is a stern call, not just a suggestion

- **Caring for the 'least' is not a suggestion, but a stern call from Jesus.**



7 THOUGHTS ON CARING FOR THE 'LEAST':

7.
**CARING FOR THE 'LEAST' REQUIRES
THE COMPASSION OF GOD**



7. Caring for the 'least' requires the compassion of God

- **If we are to care for the vulnerable, poor and needy, we will need compassion.**





**The Lord is gracious and righteous,
our God is full of compassion.**



PSALMS 116:5 (NIV)



**The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made**



PSALMS 145:9 (NIV)



**Therefore, as God's chosen people,
holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves
with compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness and patience**

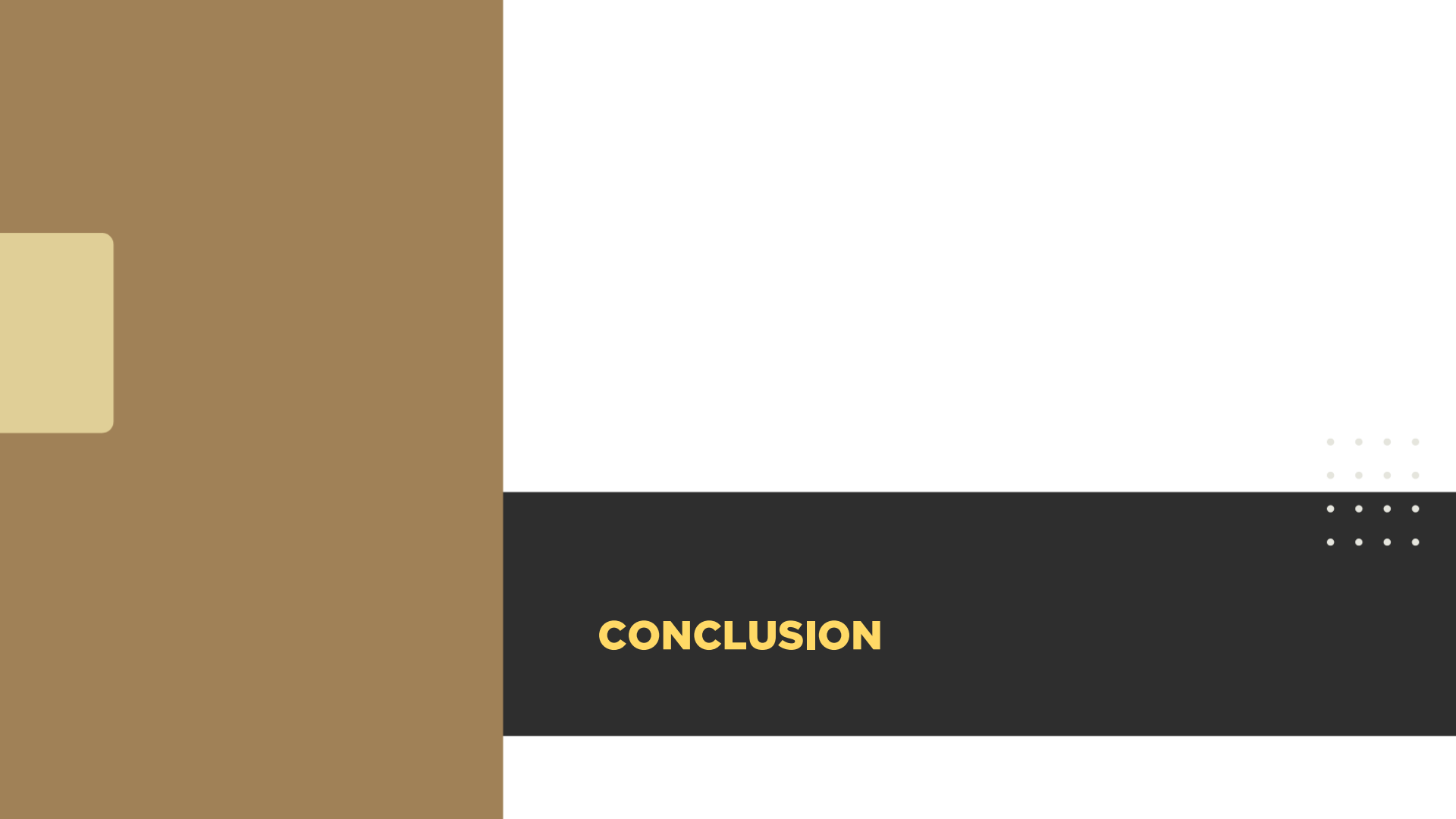


COLOSSIANS 3:12 (NIV)

7. Caring for the 'least' requires the compassion of God

- **If we lack compassion, which is natural to almost all of us, let us ask the God of compassion for it.**





CONCLUSION