

THE 5/20 PROJECT

For God so Loved He Gave...



Kingdom Principles: 153

This passage is one of the clearest biblical foundations for the mission of the 5/20 Project. It shifts the believer's focus from *doing random acts of kindness* to *recognizing Jesus in the person standing in front of us*. The 5/20 Project is not fundamentally about giving away money—it is about learning to see people as Jesus sees them and responding to the Holy Spirit in real time.

“Jesus in Front of You”

Matthew 25:31–46

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...”

Matthew 25:35

Introduction

One of the greatest fears believers have is missing God's will.

Many imagine that serving Jesus requires extraordinary gifts, world travel, preaching to thousands, or accomplishing great things. Yet Jesus paints a completely different picture.

He tells us that many of the greatest Kingdom moments happen in ordinary places:

- A grocery store.
- A gas station.
- A coffee shop.
- A parking lot.
- An Uber ride.
- A campground.
- A sidewalk.

The question is never,

“Can I find Jesus?”

The question becomes,

“Can I recognize Him when He places someone in front of me?”

That is exactly what the 5/20 Project seeks to cultivate.

The Surprise

The righteous answered Jesus:

“Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You?”

They were genuinely surprised.

They never knew they were ministering directly to Christ.

Why?

Because they were not serving for recognition.

They were simply responding to compassion.

Likewise, the influencers of the 5/20 Project are not trying to complete assignments.

They are simply learning to recognize the gentle prompting of Holy Spirit.

The Kingdom Pattern

The world asks:

“What can this person do for me?”

The Kingdom asks:

“What does Jesus want to give through me?”

The world sees interruptions.

The Kingdom sees invitations.

The world counts dollars.

The Kingdom counts people.

The 5/20 Connection

The five \$20 bills are never the mission.

They are simply tools.

Sometimes the greatest gift is the money.

Sometimes it is:

- listening
- encouragement
- prayer
- a hug
- sharing a meal
- helping with groceries
- buying gas
- paying for breakfast
- carrying someone's burden
- simply noticing someone

The money simply opens a door for love.

As we often say:

Money is the currency of the world.

Love is the currency of the Kingdom.

“Jesus Sees You”

One sentence often changes an entire day.

When someone hears:

“Jesus sees you.

Jesus loves you.”

their greatest need may not be financial.

It may be to know they have not been forgotten.

Matthew 25 reminds us that every overlooked person matters deeply to Jesus.

Holy Spirit Highlights People

The 5/20 Project is built on one simple prayer.

“Holy Spirit...

Who are You already loving today?

May I join You.”

Instead of creating our own ministry opportunities,
we simply join what God is already doing.

That is exactly how Jesus ministered.

“The Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing.” (Gospel of John 5:19)

We Rarely Know the Whole Story

The hungry person may also be lonely.

The thirsty person may also be grieving.

The stranger may simply need someone to acknowledge their existence.

The person at the checkout line may have just buried a spouse.

The waiter may be praying silently for rent money.

The exhausted mother may feel invisible.

Holy Spirit knows every story.

We do not.

That is why dependence upon Holy Spirit is essential.

Every Person Bears the Image of God

Every face carries eternal value.

Not because of what they have done.

Not because of what they believe.

But because they were created in God’s image.

The 5/20 Project trains our eyes to see people differently.

Instead of asking,

“What do I think about this person?”

we begin asking,

“What does Jesus love about this person?”

The Beautiful Surprise

One day we may stand before Jesus.

Perhaps He will say:

“When you bought that stranger breakfast...

you were feeding Me.

When you stopped to listen...

you were listening to Me.

When you prayed for that cashier...

you were praying for Me.

When you handed someone twenty dollars and said,

‘Jesus sees you. Jesus loves you.’

I received that gift personally.”

That is the astonishing truth of Matthew 25.

A Holy Spirit Challenge

This week, before leaving your home, pray:

Father,

Slow me down.

Open my eyes.

Quiet my distractions.

Help me notice who You notice.

If someone is hungry,
let me feed them.

If someone is thirsty,
let me refresh them.

If someone feels unseen,
let me remind them they are loved.

May every gift I give point beyond myself and reveal Jesus. Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Who around me have I been too busy to notice?
2. Am I looking for ministry opportunities or for Holy Spirit's invitations?
3. Is my heart more concerned with giving money or revealing God's love?
4. What ordinary place might become holy ground today?
5. If Jesus stood beside the person I meet today, how would I respond?

Closing Thought

Matthew 25 is not merely a call to charity.

It is an invitation to relationship.

The King so identifies with people that serving them becomes serving Him.

The 5/20 Project exists to train ordinary believers to recognize those divine moments, respond with compassion, and become available to Holy Spirit in everyday life.

Perhaps the greatest miracle is not that we find Jesus.

It is that, through Holy Spirit, Jesus allows us to discover Him hidden in the people we might otherwise walk past.

For more information on how you can be involved

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