



## Lesson 51 “Strive Together”

Romans 15: 22-33

Teacher Beth Seifert  
© Naomi’s Table 2014

Read Acts 16:6-7. In these two short verses, we see the same thing happen twice. What happens? What does that tell you about who was in charge of Paul’s travel?

Read Matthew 25:31-40. At the judgment, as Christ separates out the “sheep” from the “goats”, what commendation does He give to the sheep?

What response do the sheep/righteous give in verse 37?

What emotional reaction do they appear to have to this statement of Christ’s?

What does the King tell them in verse 40? Who are “the least of these my brothers”?

Who does that tell you our priority should be for providing for their physical needs?

Read Ephesians 6:16-20. What can the shield of faith do?

What is the sword of the Spirit? How should we pray? Who does Paul specifically ask for prayers for here? For what purpose?

Make a list today of the needs you know exist within the church. Think globally and locally, including things like “persecution” and “food”. Then, next to these things, write down the names of any brothers and sisters you know personally who are facing these issues. Look at the list. Is there a specific person that you can reach out to in some way today? It doesn’t have to be expensive or burdensome, but think in terms of ways you can encourage or help, perhaps by watching someone else’s children, providing just one meal for a family struggling to make ends meet, or sending a card to a brother or sister who is grieving a loss. Before you go any further today, make steps to DO that activity,

to help and bless someone else. Not for the credit or to make yourself feel good, but simply to demonstrate your concern for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

As you spend time with God today, ask Him to help you to be more aware of the suffering of your brothers and sisters around you. Ask Him to help you not to feel overwhelmed when you see the suffering, but to take practical steps to help, even if it means sacrificing some of your time or resources. Ask Him to remind you always of what your first priority should be, and then ask Him to help you to give as generously as you are able in whatever way you are able to provide for those brothers and sisters. And pray today. Pray for those brothers and sisters who are facing persecution who you don't know by name, but who are, still, part of God's family. Pray for them, and intercede on their behalf.