



***“What’s in a Number?”***  
**James 1:27**  
**Sermon Date: August 8th, 2010**

**Prayer:**

Spend some time this week praying for those in our community who are in need, specifically for the widows and orphans. Pray that the Lord would provide for them and seek His wisdom on how you can be a part of loving and serving them. Also, pray the same prayers for our brothers and sisters around the world, many of whom are persecuted daily and/or live in extreme poverty.

**Scripture:**

Read the following verses and write down what they tell us about serving those around us.

James 1:27 –

Matthew 25:31-46–

Job 31:16-23 –

**Study Questions:**

Why is it that the widows and orphans are singled out in the passages above as people to be cared for? Are we to care for the widows and the orphans only, or is this a command to care for all of those in need (Matthew 25:31-46)? What group in society do the widows and orphans represent?

Read James 1:26-27 and explain what true religion is. Is your life marked by a willingness to give to and serve those who are in need? Why or why not?

In Matthew 6:1-4 Jesus gives some instruction about the way in which we give to those in need. What does He say about it? Does this mean that nobody can ever know that you have helped someone in need? If not, what does it mean?

God’s love for the helpless and needy is demonstrated so clearly in the fact that He has met our deepest need, the need to be saved from our sin. Reflect on this truth as you read Ephesians 2:1-10.

*“Mercy is not optional or an addition to being a Christian. Rather, a life poured out in deeds of mercy is the inevitable sign of true faith.”*

*Timothy Keller*