

Jesus' Last Parable: The Sheep and the Goats
Matthew 25:31-46
Parables and Miracles—Part 22
October 8, 2023

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵For 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, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ ³⁷“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ⁴⁰“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ ⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’ ⁴⁴They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison and did not help you?’ ⁴⁵“He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ ⁴⁶“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”
--Matthew 25:31-46

Four important lessons from this final parable of Jesus:

1. There will be a time when Jesus will separate the _____ from the _____

The difference between “sheep people” and “goat people” :

“Sheep” have a _____ heart and naturally help those in need

“Goats” have a _____ heart and naturally ignore those in need

2. This judgment will determine where you will _____

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.”--Matthew 25:34

“Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”--Matthew 25:41

“God is not willing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” --2 Peter 3:9

3. Helping those in need doesn't _____ your salvation; it is _____ of your salvation

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith...not by works, so that no one can boast.” --Ephesians 2:8-9

4. When you show kindness to _____ it's like showing kindness to _____

Jesus mentioned six categories of people who need mercy:

The _____ need food;

The _____ need a drink;

The _____ need clothes;

_____ need hospitality;

The _____ and _____ need visits.

“These are my brothers...For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”--Matthew 12:49-50

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” --Galatians 6:10