

Matthew 25:31-46 The Sheep and the Goats

31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ 41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ 44 “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ 45 Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

So we have before us tonight the end of the Olivet Discourse: Sermon on the MT of Olives

A) Sermon sparked by the question in 24:3 – What will be the sign.... And the end of the age.

B) So that is the context – of this sermon.

C) Jesus is sitting on the MT of Olives the very place his feet are going to step at his 2nd Coming

When we go to Israel – We stop there – looking into the city of Jerusalem.

A) A lot happened there – but I always think about what is going to happen there!

B) MT is going to split in two – create this Valley that will stretch from east to West

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,
Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west,
Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north
And half of it toward the south. Zechariah 14:4

C) Jesus closes this sermon by referring to that event

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

A) The Context is the 2nd coming

B) After the Rapture - 7 year tribulation – Jesus returns – Culmination – Battle of Armageddon

C) 160 mile grave YARD!!!

1) After that Battle Jesus comes to the MT of Olives

D) His 2nd coming is going to be awesome!

1) Complete opposite from His first – Glory!

E) No Manger / no thorns / no cross /

1) Not Meekness

F) This time it is POWER AND GLORY ON DISPLAY!!

Isaiah 6 – Throne – holy... Saw his glory – Woe is me

A) John Revelation 1 – saw his glory – fell down like he was dead!

B) Jesus comes back his glory is on Display:

**C) V.31 He sits on a throne – King but also a judge
1) Beginning of his millennial reign**

D) The first thing that starts it off -

V.32 The Nations are gathered to Him!

A) He is going to separate them like a Shepherd separates the sheep from the goats

B) Who are these people?

1) These are those who have made it through the great tribulation – **Gentiles – from all nations**

C) Although many will die during the tribulation – Some martyrs – others war/famines/ catastrophes
1) There will be people all over the planet who survive the tribulation time

Those people are going to be gathered to Jesus at Jerusalem – He is going to separate them into 2 groups

A) The thing that defines which group a person is placed into – has to do with their treatment of this group of people Jesus calls his brethren

B) Well it is not the Church - because we are taken in the rapture.

C) According to **Revelation 19:11-16 – We return with Christ – to rule and reign on the earth**

1) 1,000 year millennial reign Revelation 20:4

D) So we are not the Brethren mentioned here!

Many Bible teachers believe that Jesus is referring to the Jews.

A) At the 3 & 1/2 yr point of the tribulation – the Antichrist the abomination of desolation

B) The Jewish people reject him and he turns on them with a vengeance –

1) The time of Jacob's trouble

C) They will flee running from their lives

So many Bible teachers believe the Sheep are those who helped the Jewish people during the this time

A) Hid them – fed them and visited them and the goats are the ones who didn't

B) I think that makes perfect sense that his brethren would be the Jewish people

1) Paul Romans 9 My Brethren - Peter Acts 2 Men and brethren

C) Other Bible teachers believe this could refer **NOT ONLY to the Jews –**

1) but also people who get **SAVED** during the tribulation

D) Because the Antichrist is going to turn against them as well.

1) I have no problem with that definition either

E) I think his brethren could refer to both

So Jesus separates the nations into two groups

. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Jesus says to the “sheep” on the right V.34

34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

When they hear this – they are confused:

37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You **hungry** and feed You, or **thirsty** and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a **stranger and take You in**, or **naked and clothe** You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

He condemns the goats – because they didn't do those things?

A) They respond – when did we see you.....

B) He responds – v.45 ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

C) This reminds us of an important Biblical principle – Jesus identifies with his people!

D) Saul of Tarsus persecuting the church – Destroy

1) Road to Damascus - Saul Why are you persecuting me?

E) **Saul was persecuting the Church** – Jesus viewed it as persecuting Him – We are His body.

Jesus identifies with His people!

A) Identifies with our suffering – identifies with our pain – HE IS NOT ALOOF

B) **Take a hammer and crush my toe** – you haven't just assaulted my toe – you have assaulted me

1) Remember that next time you are gossiping about a brother or sister. **Assaulting Christ**

C) Remember that the next time you are tearing someone down

1) **Tearing down Jesus -**

D) Paul makes that pt very clear in 1 Corinthians 8:12 you sin against another brother – **wound their weak conscience you are sinning against Christ.**

Point is Jesus identifies with His people –

A) **You did it to the least of these my brethren you did it unto me!** {Flip side – bless a bro/sis bless Jesus

B) See this should also motivate us – Even though the context is – **what happens during the tribulation**

C) I think it can still be applicable to us in our daily lives – **AS AN EXAMPLE -**

D) Here He is REMINDING US

“When one of my own is:		I am
When	Hungry	Hungry
When	Thirsty	Thirsty
When	Naked	Naked
When	Lonely	Lonely
When	Sick/Suffering	Sick/Suffering
When	Prison	Prison

His desire is that His body would reach out to mend & heal to comfort & support those who are suffering

A) We actually serve Christ – by taking care of His people.

Story of Martin of tours – Roman Centurion –

A) Coming home from Battle with his troops – saw a poor beggar shivering in the cold

B) Martin took his thick Roman Cloak and cut it in TWO – gave half to the beggar

C) **Later that night – one of his soldiers had a vision of heaven – saw Jesus – half a Roman Cloak**

1) Lord where did you get that? – Jesus replied it was given to me by my servant Martin of tours –

Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Before we move on I need to say that this parable is not teaching Salvation by works –

A) But rather the fact that true faith – true salvation is evidenced by it's service.

B) Paul in Ephesians 2 makes it clear – **⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

C) But James also makes it perfectly clear that **TRUE Faith is a faith that WORKS**

D) **James 2:26** For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

His point: Those truly saved – God's spirit living in them begin to develop the heart of their Lord –

A) Heart that sees people the way that He does

B) A heart that reaches out to the HURTING!!!!

C) Two things that matter most to Jesus
#1 HIS GLORY

#2 PEOPLE –

D) Reach out to hurting people – JESUS is glorified

Many of you do that very well!

A) Jail ministry

B) Convalescent homes – Life care

C) **Disaster: Respond / Hospital -**

1) Backpacks

D) Blessed to be your pastor Next we see the truth and Justice

Note V. 41 again

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand,
'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire
prepared for the devil and his angels

Really a Hell – Made for the Devil not people

A) But real people will go there

One cardiologist by the name of Maurice Rawlings, a cardiologist who attended many people who are dying in the emergency room had a different story and wrote a different book. He wrote a book called, Beyond Death's Door. He experienced the deaths of hundreds of patients, he says whose heart stopped suddenly and changed his idea about eternity.

In his book, he writes, "I'm thoroughly convinced that there is life after death and that there are at least as many people go into hell as going to heaven." He says -- and one time, he was an unbeliever, but now with this, he's convinced. The turning point of my own concepts occurred when a patient experienced cardiac arrest and dropped dead right in front of me in my office. Of course, that alone didn't change my thinking, but the fact that this 48-year-old was screaming, "I'm in hell. Keep me out of hell."

Each time he responded to resuscitation efforts, did caused me some concern. He has an act for the understatement. He wrote, "About 50% of the revived persons told of having gone to a place of great darkness, filled with a grotesque moaning and riving bodies, crying out to be rescued from this place with overwhelming feelings of eerie, nightmarish terror."

He addresses in his book, "Why aren't these stories being reported?" He answers, "Because people are too embarrassed to admit them and doctors are too embarrassed to make inquiries into such matters, but nobody can afford to ignore these reports. I'm convinced there is a hell and we must conduct ourselves in such a way as to avoid being sent there at all cost."

Get Saved – get ready – Get Busy