

The Parables of the Kingdom Matthew 25:31-46 In Jesus' Name

Been Studying the Parables found in Matthew's gospel –Theme the Kingdom of Heaven is like –

- A) Kingdom of Heaven Represents The spreading of God's plan and influence in the affairs of Men
- B) Parables take us from the Beginning of the Spreading of the gospel in the Parable of the Sower and the seed
- C) **The Birth & growth of the Church/ the negative influences and attack that would come upon the Church**
- D) **All the way to the Rapture – 10 virgins – and today – the 2nd coming and Judgment.**
- C) **You could say that all of church history is depicted in these Parables**

Final one today. Rd V. 31-46 In Jesus name

Our Focus today is going to be to look at what this Parable tells us about Jesus – 3 things

- #1 He is Coming in Glory.
- #2 He identifies with His people.
- #3 He will Judge with a final judgment.

#1 He is Coming in Glory.

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.

Three comings of Christ!

- A) **1st coming – 2000 yrs ago – Came as a Lamb – Give His life**
- B) **2nd coming – Coming as a Lion.... Judah/ As a King Coming to set up His Kingdom!**
 - 1) Set things in order –
- C) **Between the 1st and 2nd coming of Christ is an event we know as the rapture.**
 - 1) Comes **NOT TO** the earth but to the clouds – calls up his Church to meet Him

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and

remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. caught up Rapturo – rapture = snatched away!

And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

D) 7 Year wedding feast – Bride in heaven – those left on the earth – 7 yrs of tribulation

1) Unless those days were shortened- no one would survive

E) At the end of those 7yrs Jesus is going to return to the earth in His glory- His bride the Church w/ Him

1) Set up His kingdom- Rule and reign Rev 19:11-16

This Parable is referring to an event that takes place at the 2nd Coming! Comes In HIS GLORY!

A) Make no mistake about Jesus is going to come in His glory! Seen in His glory

Aa) That which man has only had little glimpses of

B) Moses on Mt Sinai – Show me your glory – God says – I will show you my after glow –

1) Saw my glory – Kill you!

C) Moses face glowed for days after only seeing the afterglow

D) High priest – Holy of Holies – One day a year - Shekinah – more of a weightiness – that was felt in that place than a glory that was seen.

E) Peter James and John – Mt of transfiguration –they got a taste

1) Jesus began to glow – the Glory on the inside – was seen in part on the outside.

F) One day the world is going to see Jesus return – See Him in His Glory His splendor – blown away –

Every Knee will bow – tongue will confess – That Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Here we are Told in V. 32 – At this time Jesus is going to gather the nations – all pp's from every nation will be gathered together.

B) PP will be divided like a Shepherd would separate the sheep from the goats

C) There are 3 groups in the parable: There are the sheep & then there are the goats

1) There are those He calls His brethren / who are taken care of by the sheep & neglected by

the goats.

Who are the Brethren?

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

B) 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

C) So we are not the Brethren mentioned here!

The brethren would seem to me to be believing Jews – those who are going to get saved during the trib.

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

B) 144,000 Jewish evangelist – Rev.14 - Believe in the Messiah

C) They go preaching the gospel - Zechariah also paints a picture - Jesus returns – they who pierced him – believe

D) Brethren are those Jews who get saved during the tribulation

1) Many are martyred – but some will make it

E) So many commentators believe that the Brethren refers to the Jews who will get saved during the trib

The Sheep are Gentiles (come from all nations) who get saved during the tribulation and make it their aim to help Israel

A) **Anti Christ just like Hitler** did is going to make war with the Jews – The sheep are those who protect them –

B) Where as the goats are those who neglect them – those who are only concerned about their own well being

C) Because I am Pretrib on the rapture – that seems to make sense to me

D) There are those who hold a different view of **Eschatology who might see this differently –**

1) That is Ok – we can agree to disagree – when the rapture happens before the trib starts – they will be glad I was right

Others feel that by "my brethren" the Lord is simply indicating any individual among the sheep who is in need in during the tribulation.

Interesting that although – the disciples never saw the fullness of His glory while Jesus was on earth –

A) They constantly experienced the nature of it – in His earth life.

B) John put it this way: John 1:14

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

C) Full of grace and truth! – Mercy and Justice.

D) Those two things are portrayed very vividly for us here as well.

1) His grace is seen in how He identifies w/ His pp

#2 Jesus identifies with His people.

A) Jesus gathers the sheep together and blesses them

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

Jesus identifies with His People.

A) Remember Acts 9 conversion of Saul – Rd to Damascus – Saul Saul why are you persecuting me?

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

C) **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

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

1) Tearing down Jesus -

E) 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.

Young single guys – get involved with sexually with a sister in the Lord – Sinning against Christ.

A) Spiritual incest – SICKO – she is your sister until marriage then she becomes your wife. Think about that next time tempted to full around.

B) PT is Jesus identifies with His people – You did it to the least of these my brethren you did it unto me!

C) This should comfort us – Hebrews 13:8 Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever.

1) High Priest who sympathizes with us.

D) Here He is telling us:

“When one of my own is Hungry

I am Hungry

When Thirsty

Thirsty When

Naked

.... Naked

When Lonely

Lonely

When Sick/ suffering

sick/ suffering

When Prison

Prison

E) When His pp are suffering – His heart breaks –

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

A) How do we serve Christ – by taking care of His people.

B) The kingdom of heaven is taken one meal at a time.

1) The Kingdom is won – one cold glass of water at a time.

C) The Kingdom of heaven is won – one act of Kindness at a time!

1) **Salt and Light** – going to the home of elderly brother and sisters assisting w/ yard work /painting fixing things

D) Jesus would say: **'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: You did it unto the least of these my brethren you did it unto me.**

E) Those of you who might need that help – don't be **so stubborn as to not receive it** – you are giving your brothers and sisters an opportunity to actually serve Jesus by serving – you. An opportunity to be blessed

You guys are good at taking care of His body! His Bride!

A) When I go away on a missions trip –leave Denise and the kids

B) Always some of you who say: Denise if you need anything – don't hesitate to call – I so appreciate that

1) **Pp taking care of my bride** – watching out for my family

C) Jesus is the same way – You guys do it well!

D) Blessed to say: A couple hundred of you have made the trip to New Orleans and Mississippi – to help after the floods / Group right now in Iowa

E) Many responded to the Fires - / Those of you who serve in the Jails / Brigg

Great reputation as a church in our Community – more importantly in Heaven –
Proud to be your Pastor.

People end up in the Hospital – You respond with meals –

A) Those recipients come to me – This is an amazing body – so blessed to be a part of it

B) Listen we can differ on our position on the last days – but one thing is clear –

1) Jesus is looking for us while we are waiting for His coming – to be faithful –

C) **To reveal Him to the world** – by being gracious and kind

1) Demonstrate the love and nature of Christ by loving and reaching out to those who are hurting.

D)**The Kingdom – our mission field** can be taken one life / one soul at a time.

1) One act of Kindness at a time.

E) Jesus said: **You did it unto the least of these my brethren you did it unto me!**

F) **Excited Harvest Crusade** – 1,000's will come to Christ –

B) What excites me the most – when one of you come to me and say – Hey led a co-worker to Christ this week –

1) Led a neighbor – brought my friend to Church and they got saved – that is exciting – to me

C) Seeing you getting the opportunity to impact a life for eternity !

D) That is exciting to me – **The Kingdom – won – One life at a time**

1) One cup of cold water at a time / One meal / One act of kindness

E) Jesus saying: You did it to the least of these my brethren... me!

Story of Martin of tours – Roman Centurion – Cloak – cut – poor beggar / Vision of heaven – Jesus half Roman Cloak – given to me by my servant Martin of tours –

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 – serves evidenced by its service.

B) Those truly saved – begin to develop the heart of their Lord –

1) Heart that sees pp the way that He does and reaches out.

John said: We beheld His glory Full of grace and truth. Mercy and Justice.

A) Next we see the truth and Justice

B) Jesus says to the goats – those who neglected His pp – He will say to them **Depart from me.**

#3 Jesus will Judge! With a final Judgment A) Men don't like to think about Judgment

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B) When is the last time you sat down with somebody and had a real heart to heart about the Judgment of God

1) Not a hot topic of conversation

C) Men don't like to think about it – because then they can simply live their life the way that they want – not think about the consequences

D) Churches don't like to talk about Judgment

1) We have – 12 Parables – 7 of them have dealt with Judgment –

E) We have seen hell described as a place of weeping and Gnashing of teeth – outer

darkness

1) Everlasting fire!

**F) Jesus spoke more about hell than of heaven why
Real pp will end up there!**

1) We have to talk about it – true and loving

Hebrews 9:27

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

Once shot at this life – no reincarnation – no 2nd chances – die once – stand before God

A) What do you do with my Son – Embrace Jesus

B) Life reflect a life that knew Him / heart given over to Him – Life that served Him

1) Or a life given over to pleasing self!

C) Jesus says to the Goats Depart from me – you accursed – You who are still under the curse

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No redemption - into everlasting fire = forever

A) But note prepared for the devil and his angels

**B) Never intended for man – but men will end up there – of their own accord – by rejecting
Jesus Christ**

C) Not God’s intent – Why He sent Jesus the first time – Die – so you could live

D) Do you know Jesus – Life reflect that ?

No neutral ground – today