

Are You a Sheep or a Goat?
What happens when Christ judges us.
7/30/2017 Sunday AM

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Introduction

- Last week we spoke about We Harvest What We Plant: How is the crop this year?
- We discussed how, “reaping what you sow”, is a natural law God created that applies to many different areas of our lives.
- If we want our spiritual lives to produce a harvest for us, we must plant the correct seeds for that to occur.
- Getting something from nothing does not happen, even though the world makes it look possible sometimes.
- God requires us to plant, but He provides the seeds and promises us to bring them to harvest.
- This morning we are asking the question Are You a Sheep or a Goat? What happens when Christ judges us.
- We talked two weeks ago, about confronting sin and the issue of “judging others.”
- As we read the Scripture this morning we should get a clear idea of how Christ will judge us all.

Matthew 25:31-46

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 you 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.’ ⁴⁴“They 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.”

- Vv. 31-32 give us the setting for the things that Jesus is teaching on in verses to follow.
- This is speaking of the judgement time for believers and unbelievers.
- Jesus is speaking to the people in parables (an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.)
- Sheep and goats would often graze together, but would be separated when it was time to shear the sheep.
- He is using the separation between sheep and goats to illustrate what He will do at our judgement.
- Vv.33-34 – The sheep go on His right side and the goats on the left side.
- What happened to these sheep? They get to enter the Kingdom of Heaven that was prepared for them!!
- Vv.35-36 – The King gives them the reason that they were allowed to enter the Kingdom. He says, “For...
 1. I was he was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
 2. I was thirsty and you have me something to drink,
 3. I was a stranger and you invited me in,
 4. I needed clothes and you clothed me,
 5. I was sick and you looked after me,
 6. I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

- Vv. 37-40 – After he tells them why they are allowed in, they don't seem to know what he is talking about.
- They begin to ask him when they did all of these things that he is saying that they did for him.
- He responds to them in v. 40 by saying, "...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
- The people could not remember doing the things for the King himself, however what he just told them was that all of those things that they did for others, they were doing for him.
- When we look to the interest of others more than for ourselves, we do that for Christ.
- When we help the weak, the poor, and the sick, we do these good deeds for Christ himself.
- What does this say about entering Heaven?
- Can we gain eternal life in Heaven without any action at all?
- **James 2:17** says, "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."
- If we truly love Jesus, we will show that by what we do and what we say.

- Vv.41-46 – We see in these verses the opposite fate for those on the left side of the King.
- v. 41 says, "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.'"
- The fate of the "goats" was "eternal fire."
- What is interesting about this verse is it tells us that Hell was prepared for who? "The devil and his angels"
- If you remember from v. 34, Heaven was prepared for God's people, not Hell.
- As he did with the sheep, the King explains why the goats will suffer in Hell.
- They did the exact opposite as the sheep.
- The goats asked the King when they had the opportunity to do the things that he was accusing them of not doing.
- His reply was like the one to the sheep, however he said, "...I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."
- The goats had lived lives of INACTION, they did not look to the needs of others.
- They outward actions, or lack thereof, testified to the condition of their spiritual health.
- Although they had every opportunity to live for Christ and to do the same thing the sheep did, they chose not to and now they will Harvest what they Planted.
- V. 36 says, "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."
- That is the judgement and Christ is the one that has the final say.

- You and only you have to ask yourself this morning whether or not you are a sheep or a goat.
- Your actions are a good indicator of the condition of your heart, but not always.
- Examine your life right now, if we were all standing before the King right now, on which side would he place you? His left, or His right?
- Are you a sheep, or are you a goat?

Wednesday Night Bible Study:

Who's Who in the Bible? Jethro (Exodus)