

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 glorious throne. ³² All 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. ³³ He 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. ³⁵ For 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, ³⁶ I 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? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' ⁴⁰ The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters 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. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I 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, 'Truly I tell you, 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."

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EXPLORING THE PASSAGE

- What do the “sheep” and the “goats” have in common?
 - What is similar in their situations, perspectives, understanding, questions, or actions?
 - What are the key differences between them?
- What seems to be the motivation of the sheep and what are the excuses of the goats?
- What do their actions and motivations reveal about who they truly are and what they believe is true?
- What is significant about the way the King responds to each group? What does this reveal about the King Himself?
- Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” And again, “whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” What does this mean, and why is it significant?
- What does this passage teach about the righteousness and will of God?
- Summarize the main point of this passage in one or two sentences. What is God’s personal word for you from this text, and how will you respond?