

Message Notes

The Sheep & the Goats

Matthew 25:31-46

Gospel of Matthew, part 83

September 17, 2006

Message Outline

The Sheep & the Goats

Matthew 25:31-46

Gospel of Matthew, part 83

September 17, 2006

The Reality of Judgment on the Last Day

1. Judgment is CERTAIN (25:31)
2. Judgment will be BY JESUS (25:31)
3. Judgment will be UNIVERSAL (25:32-33)
4. Judgment will be JUST (25:34)
5. Judgment will be FINAL and FOREVER (25:41, 46)
6. Judgment will be based on THE FRUIT (evidence) OF OUR FAITH IN CHRIST (25:35-45)

Real faith will produce real fruit.

*Fruit is not the CAUSE of our salvation,
but the EVIDENCE of our salvation.*

*The appearance/actions of a sheep doesn't make a sheep a sheep,
it just tells you that it is one.*

*Care for and identification with needy and suffering believers
is part of the fruit of faith.*

Three reasons why this text cannot be teaching "salvation by works" . . .

1. The word "inheritance" in v. 34
2. The surprise of the righteous in v. 37
3. The larger context/teaching of Matthew's Gospel and the whole Bible

The Relevance of Judgment on This Day

1. Matthew's Gospel does not end here!
2. Before Jesus comes to execute judgment some day, He endured judgment, so we might escape it.
3. Become a sheep who follows Jesus by looking to the cross of Jesus.
4. If you think you are a sheep, look at your life.
5. Act like a sheep who identifies with and cares for the people of Jesus.

Growth Group Understanding Questions

The Sheep & the Goats

Matthew 25:31-46

Gospel of Matthew, part 83

September 17, 2006

1. Read Matthew 25:31-46. What was your emotional reaction to this text before hearing the message? Why is this text confusing and disturbing?
2. When does Jesus say this judgment will take place? Why is this problematic for both pre and post tribulation premillennialists? (You might have to do some research to answer this one!)
3. What do we know about the characteristics and the keeping of sheep and goats that forms the backdrop to this text?
4. How does this text show us both the exaltation and humility of Jesus?
5. This passage by itself could appear to teach "salvation by works." Why is the text not teaching salvation by works? What is the significance of the word "inherit" in v. 34? Why is the surprise of the righteous relevant in this discussion?
6. Explain this statement and why it's important to the understanding of this text: *The appearance/actions of a sheep doesn't make a sheep a sheep, it just tells you that it is one.*

Growth Group Application Questions

The Sheep & the Goats

Matthew 25:31-46

Gospel of Matthew, part 83

September 17, 2006

1. What was most challenging or new in the text/message this week?
2. What was the point of the sheep and goat at the beginning of the service?
3. Why is the subject of God's judgment so offensive to 21st Century Americans and maybe even ourselves? How do we overcome our own negative reaction to the subject and our reluctance to talk about it?
4. Do you think that men/women internally know that there will be a judgment? Is Jesus trying to "scare us straight?" What is He trying to do?
5. How does the cross of Jesus provide a framework for the words of Jesus here? How can the cross provide confidence in light of the coming of judgment?
6. How has or will this text/message change your thinking or your living?