

## **The Judgment of God: Loving the Unresponsive, Unaware and the Unprepared**

Learning from Jesus Matthew 25:31-46 KSBC Aug.15, 2010

**Introduction** Some have the perception that God's judgment and wrath are only mentioned in the Old Testament and fundamentalist Baptist churches. Nothing could be further from the truth from a biblical perspective. This morning we turn to the teaching of Jesus Christ recorded in the gospel of Matthew and discover that both in terms of frequency and intensity, his teaching about the coming judgment matches and furthers that of Moses and the Prophets.

An extended teaching time by Jesus on this topic of coming judgment is recorded and preserved in Matthew 24-25. As he was leaving the Temple area he told his followers that all of these huge buildings that appear so strong and secure would be destroyed. They proceeded to the Mount of Olives, just outside the city where Jesus answered the disciple's questions about the end of the age, his coming and the coming judgment. Jesus discourse is pointed at 3 key concerns and concludes with a vivid description of the judgment at the end of this age.

Three concerns that Jesus raises both in direct statement and parable have to do with delay, deception and alertness. Let's note them as we survey Jesus teaching in Matthew 24-25 and then look more closely at Jesus description of the judgment. Jesus helps us love the unresponsive, unprepared, unaware and unreasonable by teaching us to focus on him and stay alert ourselves.

Regarding the coming of the close of this age and God's judgment . . .

1. Purpose to not be lead astray or deceived. 24:4-7; 24-28
2. Understand there will be an intentional and purposeful delay. 24:14
3. Stay alert. 24:44 25:13

Jesus concludes his teaching time with a descriptive, sober and somewhat surprising explanation of what the final judgment is like. It helps us to stay on task when faced with deceit, delay or distractions. It is a picture of Christ in his glory.

**Read Matthew 25:31-46** This scene, dialogue and summary of the final judgment of God on people comes from the mouth of Jesus himself. This is an up close and personal description from the one who is at the center of it all. His is better than a front row seat, he is in the chair that everyone else will see, be drawn too and bow before.

Look and listen as Jesus portrays the final judgment . . . look and listen well so that your courage and clarity is strengthened against the deceit, delay and distractions that keep us from alertly loving the unprepared all around us.

### **1. Jesus describes the scene of final judgment. 25:31-33**

Note the various parts of the picture and the connected truths explained . . .

- **When** . . . at Jesus coming in his glory. 31 cmp Matt. 24:30; 16:27

1Thess. 4:16

2Thess. 1:7-8

- **Where** . . . on his glorious throne. 31 Zech. 14:5  
Role of judge and King transferred to Jesus – all authority mediated through him  
Mt. 28:18 1Cor. 15:25 Heb. 12:2
- **Who** . . . all the nations gathered. 32 cmp. 24:14  
Matt. 28:18-20
- **What** . . . a separation of people to the right and to the left. 32-33  
Sheep and goats metaphor cmp parable of the weeds in 13:24-30, 36-43

## **2. Jesus describes the dialogue at the final judgment. 25:34-45**

To those on the right . . .

v.34 Come

Blessed by my Father

Inherit the kingdom

35-36 I was . . . you gave, you did . . .

37-39 Lord when . . . ?

40. . . you did it to me

To those on the left . . .

v.41 Depart

Cursed

Eternal fire

42-43 I was . . . you did not . . .

44 Lord, when . . . ?

45 you did not do it to me

Command/verdict

Reason/why

The question

Judge explains

Note . . . among all the contrasts, each side is alike in their surprise response to the reason they were assigned the verdict/consequences they were given. Neither questioned the verdict, they wondered why or how the verdict came about.

Who are 'the least of these my brothers?' 40,45 cmp. Matt. 10:40-42; 12:48-49; 23:8; 28:10

The disciples and those followers/messengers of Christ of Christ

How you treat the messenger of Christ is indicative of your treatment of Jesus himself. You are admitted or excluded based on how you treat Jesus which is measured by how you listen to and submit to his message and messenger.

Illus. Acts 9:5 Saul persecuting believers Jn 13:35

Basis of acceptance into eternal life is not deeds of mercy and compassion without other biblical limiters or description. Jesus is not stating that righteousness is unnecessary (5:20), he is teaching that your righteousness in Christ will be shown, evidenced by your works of love and obedience, especially to those who represent Christ. What you do with Jesus both changes your heart and behavior as well as determines your eternal dwelling.

V. 40 – the judge is saying 'you aligned yourself with me.' 45- 'you did not align yourself with me.'

### **3. Jesus summarizes the conclusion of the final judgment. 25:46**

Note the simplicity and clarity of Jesus summary statement.

There are in Jesus way of thinking only two ways for your life and this age to come to an end.

Both options are eternal but very different.

Cmp 7:21-23 13:40-43

### **Lord, I'm listening . . .**

1. Purpose to not be lead astray or deceived.

Basic picture/facts in mind . . . Jesus w/all authority, all people before him, only 2 ways.

2. Understand there will be an intentional and purposeful delay.

Do your duty . . . spread the message of Jesus to all people.

3. Stay alert.

Watch and pray. Love the unresponsive faithfully. Don't be distracted.

