

Matthew 25:31-46 – The Final Judgment

Last week we learnt why we should believe there will be a day of judgment. This week we will study what the Bible teaches about that day. What will happen? In this passage, in Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus tells us. There will be a separation, just like a shepherd separates his sheep from his goats. What will we see?

1. The King

First we see Jesus sitting on a throne. He is the King. He is Lord (v37). He comes in his glory, served by the holy angels (v31). He is the true king of all the world. He is a glorious king. We did not make the world, and it does not belong to us – it is his. We should bow to him!

Here we see him as the judge. He is called the “Son of Man”, which means that as well as being God the Son, he also is the greatest of all men. He is the one chosen by God to rule forever. How big is your view of Jesus? What do you think about him? What do you think Christianity is? First, we must bow to him. Without this, we have not even started!

2. The Sheep – those who belong to Jesus (v34-40)

Jesus spoke wonderful words to these people. He told them to enter their inheritance. He told them it had been prepared for them since the beginning of time! God made the world for a reason – to show his love to his chosen people. Is it worth following Jesus? Yes!

The people were surprised – when had they ever shown love to Jesus? His answer was that they had loved his people. Christ's people are joined to him. If you love Christ's people for Christ's sake, then you are loving Christ. After the 2007 elections people were killed because of their tribe's leader. In the same way, people can love or hate Christians to show what they think of Christ himself. It is a great truth that some people belong to Jesus Christ. Do you?

3. The Goats – those who did not belong to Jesus (v41-46)

Jesus spoke terrible words to these people. He sent them away into eternal fire. God takes sin very seriously. If people join the devil by sinning (which we all do), then they will join the devil in punishment also unless they are saved. The goats were very surprised. They should not have been. It is easy to go to hell; just do nothing! Just fail to love Jesus Christ, and you will be lost. Why should you love him? Not to earn salvation: salvation is a free gift that Jesus paid for by dying on the cross. But, if you have received that free gift you will love Jesus – of course you will!