



The Church: The Least of These

Matthew 25:31-40

November 8, 2020

I. Accountability Set Apart Jesus Christ as Lord

Matthew 25:31-33 sets the scene for this parable. What is that scene? What strikes you about what is being described?

What is so important about the sheep being put on the right and the goats on the left? Whom do the sheep represent?

What is the end result for the sheep and for the goats?
Note Matthew 25:46

How would you describe the difference between the sheep and the goats? What characterizes their lives and their commitments?

Why would people struggle with this parable, specifically the idea that there are two groups that all nations will be separated into?

Why do non-Christians hope that heaven is all inclusive?
Why do Christians often hope that heaven is all inclusive?

If someone were to ask you how they could ensure that they were a sheep going to heaven, what would you tell them?

This parable is about what we do. How do faith and works, salvation and the evidence of salvation, work together?
Note Ephesians 2:8, James 2:26

II. Meeting Needs

Matthew 25:35-39 focuses on what was done by the righteous as a result of their faith. What are the things mentioned in verse 35? Why is food and water so important? What is the challenge of welcoming a stranger?

What three things are mentioned in Matthew 25:36? Why are these so important? Consider the needs found in each situation.

In the parable, who is speaking in Matthew 25:35-36? Note verse 31

Think about what is being said in these verses. Why would this be so surprising to the hearers?

Consider that this is a parable and that it has a primary message that Jesus is trying to teach. What is that main message that Jesus is wanting to give?

Are the things listed in Matthew 25:35-36 good things for Christians to do? Why is it important to remember the main message of Jesus?

III. The Least of These

What is the question that is asked by the righteous in Matthew 25:37-38 and also probably by the people who were listening to Jesus?

What does the King reply in Matthew 25:40? How does Matthew 25:45 add to the weight and importance of this?

How does Matthew 25:45 differ from Matthew 25:40?

What does the phrase “the least of these” mean to you?

How can selfishness become a motivating factor as we work with others and as we serve others?

What is the message of Jesus to us in Mark 10:43-45? What does Paul add to this in Philippians 2:3-4?

Who are the “least of these” in your life? Be specific.