

DISCIPLE'S QUEST

*If you continue in My word, then you are
truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31

UNDERSTANDING THE END TIMES

MATTHEW 24-25

September 11, 2022

The Sheep and the Goats

Matthew 25:31-46

Main Idea:

Jesus concludes His message to the disciples about His return to reign with sobering words. The believing will authenticate their faith by showing mercy to other believers experiencing suffering. These will be invited by the Lord to enter His kingdom. The unbelieving, however, will prove their unrighteousness through the loveless neglect of suffering believers. Jesus will send them away to eternal punishment.

Outline:

1. The Setting

2. The Separation

3. The Adjudication

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

- #1 What are the main themes of the Lord's message to the disciples in Matthew 24 and 25?

- #2 As believers, we'll return with Jesus when He comes to establish His millennial kingdom (Colossians 3:4; Revelation 19:11-14). Does that motivate you to live a holy life now? Why?

- #3 Can good works cause salvation? Why not?

- #4 According to James (C. 2 v.v. 14 – 18), what do "works" demonstrate? How?

- #5 The righteous in Jesus' story didn't minister to the needy in search of a reward (25:37-39). What motivated their service?

- #6 How should we respond to the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Christ?

- #7 For what reason are people sentenced by God to eternal punishment?

Select helpful resources:

Benware, Paul N. *Understanding End Times*. Moody: Chicago, 1995, 2006.
MacArthur, John F. *Matthew 24-31*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1988.
Morris, Leon. *The Gospel According to Matthew, Pillar New Testament Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 1992.
Toussant, Stanley. *Behold the King – A Study of Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1980.
Turner, David L. *Matthew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.