LifeGroup Questions
Based On: Matthew 25:31-46
December 23, 2018

Overview

Imagine yourself going to a large nationally televised sporting event. There are easily close to 100,000 people attending. Look around the crowd. Who are believers and who are not? There is no way for you to know just by looking at someone if they are a Christian or not. It takes more than superficial knowledge to know what is going on in someone's heart.

Today's passage describes the return of Christ. In the passage God is separating believers from non-believers. He uses the analogy of a shepherd separating their herd of goats and sheep. The place of honor is on His right and the place of disgrace is on His left. This would have been a common practice for shepherds to do. Their herds would intermingle until a day came when they wanted them separated.

Separating sheep and goats is easy. You know which is which just by their appearance. Separating believers from non-believers is something only God can do. He alone knows if a believer's actions have aligned with their faith. He knows the deeds done in secret. The acts of kindness or words of encouragement given to someone who is having a hard time.

All the acts of kindness described in the passage were not done expecting any sense of reciprocation. The people doing the acts were not even aware they were serving Jesus. Their service was a natural outflow of their faith. The hope they have inside overflows to those around them. For believers this overflow of hope is not just a 'to do list' of activities. It is who they are in their hearts.

Bible Study: Matthew 25:31-46

1. If you never said a word would people around you know that you believe in Jesus by the way you served?

2. Do you associate being a messenger of hope with the Christmas season? Why or why not?

3. What are some ways you can bring hope to those you work with or your neighbors?

4. Do something unexpected for someone during this Christmas season. Give a timetable for getting it done then come back and discuss as a group how it went.