



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 25:31-46” on September 9 & 12, 2021

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed from Matthew 25:14-30 affect your week?

DISCOVER: MATTHEW 25:31-46

1. What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
2. How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
3. Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

MATTHEW 25:31-46 Jesus concludes His Olivet Discourse with more teaching about His coming, focusing on the concept of JUDGMENT and what this time of accountability will mean for us as individuals. We will be judged in accordance with our reaction to human need all around us, on the love and help we have or have not given to God’s children while we were on earth. Jesus explains how people will be separated as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, giving the sheep a place of honor on His right and the goats on His left.

SHEEP AND GOATS - Caring for God’s children: Look at Ezekiel’s prophecy of this moment in Ezekiel 34:17-24, and consider I John 3:16-19 as you study today’s passage.

- Can you put yourself in the moment described in verses 31-33 of today’s passage? What would be your immediate reaction? How would you be experiencing that moment, considering how you have used the time you were waiting for Jesus’ return, as you waited for your designation to the right or to the left?
- In verse 34 of today’s passage, Jesus describes the blessing and inheritance the ‘sheep’ will receive as ‘prepared for you since the creation of the world.’ What does that mean to you, and how will you respond to that promise?
- Jesus describes the loving/serving acts of those on His right as acts done FOR HIM and refers to them as righteous. How do those words impact your choices in loving and serving others? How would you define righteous as it is used here?
- In the Ezekiel passage the ‘bad’ animals were oppressing the others and shoving them aside, but Jesus also refers in today’s passage to sins of OMISSION – NOT seeing and responding to needs of His children. What excuses do we allow ourselves for neglecting the needs of others around us? How can we be more sensitive and aware of brokenness in our communities? How can we make ourselves more accessible to others in need?

CLARITY: The clarity of the Good News of Jesus drives us to reach out to others in love. When we love Christ, we WANT TO EXPRESS that love in actions toward others, inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit.

- What does the idea of ‘clarity’ mean to you, and how do you relate that to the way you are living out your commission to go and make disciples? Are you doing more planning and thinking or more going and doing?
- What, if anything, might be standing in the way of your sharing the clarity of who God is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He is going to do with those in your sphere of influence? In what area of your service would you ask for prayer to grow in strength and commitment?

MATTHEW 25: Looking back over the four word pictures/teachings Jesus has given in this chapter, what kind of rock or sponge do you see yourself as in light of these teachings? Are you ready with your bags packed, holding on no matter how long, leveraging your God-given abilities for Him, and caring for God’s children? Are you looking more like a sheep or a goat?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

PRAY for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.