

Giving Ourselves Away

Today we wrap up Q3 of our 2021 curriculum year on *A Place to Heal*. Our goal has been to capture the heart of the Savior so that we can learn how to love the way He loved. Our text today is one of the most sobering of Jesus' warnings about the judgment. In it we learn how we play a decisive role in choosing a favorable outcome at judgment ... and it may not be what you initially think.

I. Matthew 25.31-33: The Judgment Scene

- A. Jesus, now in full glory, power, and authority will be on His throne in all His splendor and majesty. **ALL** the angels will be with Him.
- B. 25.32 - Jesus' judgment involves a gathering and separating... "**one** from another,"

II. Matthew 25.34-40: The Spiritual Inheritance of the Righteous

- A. 25.34a - Who is in view here? He is speaking to *those who are **blessed** by My Father*.
- B. 25.34b - What do they receive? ... **inherit** the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. This has been God's plan for the righteous all along.
 - 1. Ephesians 1:4: *For he chose us in him, ..., to be **holy** and blameless in love before him.*
- C. 25.35-36: What the new life looks like after salvation.
 - 1. Emphasis: not **how** one enters the kingdom, but how one readies himself for Jesus' return.
 - 2. This *responsive faith* and humble heart is very much a part in their salvation.
- D. 25.37-38: *When did we do this for you?*
 - 1. Day-to-day, routine acts of kindness and goodness demonstrated toward others.
 - 2. John 13.34-35: *Just as I have loved you...* a life in caring for those who have need.
- E. 25.40 - when we help people ... *whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you **did for me**.*
 - 1. Matthew 10.40: *The one who **welcomes** you welcomes me, and the one who welcomes me welcomes him who sent me.* The product of your life represents the reality of your life.

III. Matthew 25.41-45: The Fate of the Unrighteous

- A. What do we have in this verse?
 - 1. **Depart** = separation; Cursed = people devoted to destruction
 - 2. Eternal = duration (everlasting); Devil/angels = association; **Fire** = affliction
- B. Why does He tell them to depart?
 - 1. 25.42-43 - because of what they didn't do.
 - 2. 25.45 - *whatever you did not do for the least of one of these, you did not do it for me.*
 - a) 1 John 3.17: *If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's **love** reside in him?*
 - 3. 25.46: The unrighteous will be sent away into eternal punishment.

IV. As We Close...

- A. Service rendered to another Christian is the mark of a Christian.
 - 1. Active ministry to others is the key to salvation.
 - 2. 1 John 3:18: *Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth.*
- B. Everyone plays a role.
 - 1. The actions of 25.35-36 are lowly, unspectacular, and not religious.
 - 2. They are simple things that everyone can do. No special talent required ...
- C. What will I do? *Who can I serve?*
- D. Why is this important? Jesus is coming. Are you ready?