

**THE STORYTELLER**  
"Surprised by Judgment"  
MATTHEW 25:31-46

**Life is a "Driving Test"**

- How do I pass the test?
- The values of the judge dictate basis for judgment.
- The metrics by which life is judged will determine how life is lived:

"This is my final recommendation: Think about the metric by which your life will be judged, and make a resolution to live every day so that in the end, your life will be judged a success."

- Clayton Christensen

**THE PARABLE OF THE SHEEP AND GOATS / FINAL JUDGMENT**

**Context**

- Responding to a Question – "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3)
- Culmination of the "Olivet Discourse" – Jesus is coming...you won't know when...be ready
- Matthew's last recorded parable / teaching before the cross

**A Familiar Picture**

- Daniel 7:9-14 - Nations gathered for judgment before God's throne
- Separation of Sheep & Goats – practical & spiritual significance

**Who is the Judge?**

- Judge / King
- Shepherd – (Matthew 18:12; John 10:11,18)
- Fellow Sheep / Brother – (v. 34; v. 40; Isaiah 53:6-8)

Love requires justice and judgment is necessary for justice.

**What is the Criteria for Judgment?**

- How you respond to \_\_\_\_\_ is how you respond to \_\_\_\_\_

"I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus, This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus...Each one of them is Jesus in disguise."

– Mother Teresa

**Who are the Judged?**

What makes a person a SHEEP?: "you who are \_\_\_\_\_ by my father" (V.34)

- The nature of a SHEEP – Beatitudes (Matthew 5)

Who are the Goats?

Your \_\_\_\_\_ reveal your \_\_\_\_\_ (see James 2:14-16)

**Questions to Ponder**

- How will your life ultimately be judged? What bearing will that have on your life now?
- Will you stand as a "sheep" or "goat" before God on judgment day?
- What do your actions towards others reveal about your heart toward God?

*\*For continued outline and notes, please turn to the back page of this handout.*

*Message given by Dan Hofmeister, volunteer leader at Rise City Church  
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