

The Sheep and the Goats - Matthew 25:31-46

Topics: Angels, Blessing, Consequences, Demons, Eternal Life, Heaven, Hell, Judgment, Mercy, Messiah, Punishment, Righteousness, Satan, Second Coming, Self-righteousness, Separation

Open It

1. What are some ways we label or categorize others?
2. Why is the belief in heaven and hell waning, while the belief in reincarnation becomes more popular?
- * 3. What are some common examples of separating clean from dirty, fresh from spoiled, or good from bad?

Explore It

4. How did Jesus describe His Second Coming? (25:31)
5. Where will all the nations be at Christ's return? (25:32)
6. According to Jesus, how will the people of the earth be divided? (25:32-33)
7. How will Jesus divide humanity? (25:33)
- * 8. What will Jesus say to those on His right? (25:34-36)
9. Why will the group on Jesus' right be blessed? (25:35)
- * 10. How will the "sheep" respond to Jesus' words on that day? (25:37-39)
- * 11. What criterion will Christ use to judge people? (25:40)
12. What will Jesus say to the "goats" on His left? (25:41)
13. Why will the goats be judged? (25:42)
14. What will cause the goats to be judged? (25:42-43)
15. What defense will those on Christ's left use to justify themselves? (25:44)
16. What will hell be like? (25:46)

Get It

- * 17. How do people usually determine whether they will be nice to somebody?
- * 18. How would your behavior change if you treated each person in your life as if he or she were Jesus?
19. In what way does this parable motivate you to tell your friends about Christ?
20. How would you counter the idea that this passage teaches salvation by good works?
21. What change does true faith make in a person's life?
22. In what specific ways has your faith in Christ changed you?
23. Who are the needy people around you?
24. What resources do you have available to you for serving the needs of others?

Apply It

- * 25. What act of kindness or mercy toward the needy can you do today?
26. In what practical, realistic way can you begin today to treat each person you meet as though he or she were Jesus Himself?
27. Without being overbearing or pushy, how can you serve your non-Christian friends this week?