

## 9-1-19 THE PARABLES OF JESUS #9 -- THE SHEEP & THE GOATS

### Matthew 25:31-46 WHOSE VOICE WILL YOU FOLLOW?

I have enjoyed our summer series of "THE PARABLES OF JESUS." We've examined and discussed 8 of Jesus' parables.

The Parable of the Wide & Foolish Builder (Matthew 7:24-27)

The Parable of the Sower & the Soils (Matthew 13:1-23)

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-31)

The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32)

The Parable of the Widow and Unjust Judge (Luke 18:1-8)

The Parable of the 10 Bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1-13)

The Parable of the Pharisee & Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)

The Parable of the 10 Minas (Luke 19:11-26)

The Parable of the Sheep & the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)

I have been personally challenged by the main point of each parable.

I am a better person today than I was in June (at the beginning of this series) because I have prayed --- ***"Dear God, please use this parable to reveal a truth of Your Word that I need to learn and HELP ME TO APPLY IT TO MY LIFE SO THAT I MAY BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS."***

I have been blessed ... and I pray that you too have been touched by the Holy Spirit to gain a new understanding of God's Word ... and that you may have allowed and determined that your everyday attitudes and behaviors may be formed by God's message to us through these parables.

#### **Text & Context of Today's Parable --- "The Sheep & the Goats":**

1. This may be the LAST PARABLE Jesus shared with his disciples.
2. Palm Sunday has past ... it is now, perhaps Tuesday or Wednesday of Holy Week.
3. Jesus just condemned the 'religious establishment' (Matthew 23) --- Jesus warned against and condemned the church of the day (the Jewish religious establishment of HYPOCRISY!!!! More than 9 times in 1 chapter – Jesus called out the religious establishment as "YOU HYPOCRITES" --- JESUS DOES NOT LIKE HYPOCRITES --- DO YOU?

Now --- either Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday afternoon of Holy Week Jesus leaves Jerusalem with his disciples – walks through the Kidron Valley and then walks up through the Mount of Olives to where they were staying in Bethany – About 2 ½ miles from the temple.

#### **Matthew 25:31-46 (JESUS SPEAKING) :**

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

<sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

<sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

<sup>41</sup> "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

<sup>44</sup> "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

<sup>45</sup> "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

<sup>46</sup> "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

## **THE SHEEP & THE GOATS by Keith Green (1978)**

And when the Son of Man comes  
And all the Holy Angels with Him  
Then shall He sit on His glorious throne  
And He will divide the nations before Him  
As a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats

And He shall put the sheep on His right  
And the goats on His left and He shall say to the sheep  
Come ye, blessed of My Father inherit the Kingdom  
I have prepared for you from the foundation of the world  
For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat

I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink  
I was naked, and you clothed Me, I was a stranger  
And you invited Me in, I was sick, and I was in prison  
And you came to Me, thank you, enter into your rest  
And they shall answer Him, yes, they shall answer Him

And they'll say, Lord, when? When were You hungry Lord  
And we gave You something to eat? Lord, when were You thirsty?  
I can't remember and we gave You drink?  
Huh, when were You naked Lord, and we clothed You?  
And Lord, when were You a stranger and we invited You in?

I mean, we invited lots of people in Lord  
I could never forget that face  
And Lord, when were You sick and we visited You?  
Or in prison, and we came to You? Lord, tell us?  
In as much as you did it to the least of My brethren

You've done it unto Me, oh yes, as much as you've done it  
To the very least of My brethren, you've done it  
you've done it unto Me, enter into your rest  
Then He shall turn to those on His left, the goats  
Depart from Me, you cursed ones, into everlasting fire

**The Sheep & the Goats --- context** ... as Jesus and his disciples returned to Bethany, they stopped in the Mount of Olives and Jesus continued his sharing about the “END TIMES” ...

**Matthew 24:1-35** – The temple that we now look at will be destroyed.  
***Everything that we have put our trust in will be destroyed ... oh my!***

**Matthew 24:36-51** – No one, except God, knows when the ‘end times’ will occur ... **Are you ready?**

**Matthew 25:1-13** – The Parable of the 10 Bridesmaids --- SO WE BETTER BE READY WHEN THE TIME COMES! ***Are you ready?***

**Matthew 25:14-30** – The Parable of the Talents – SO, GET THIS --- GOD HAS INVESTED IN EACH OF US WITH THE GIFT OF LIFE AND A **SPECIAL DIVINE GIFT SO THAT WE MIGHT HELP ONE ANOTHER AND HELP ADVANCE THE CAUSES OF GOD IN THIS WORLD ...** ***What are you doing with the gifts that God has given us?***

**Matthew 25:31-46** – The Parable of the Sheep & the Goats

NOTE: Palestinian sheep & goats look VERY SIMILAR!!

### **Main Points:**

1. WHO DO YOU RECOGNIZE AS YOUR SHEPHERD?
2. DO YOU FOLLOW HIS VOICE? OR IGNORE HIS VOICE?
3. ARE YOU DECIDING UPON ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD OR ETERNAL PRESENCE WITH GOD?

**KEY POINT:** ***THE WAY WE TREAT ONE ANOTHER, ESPECIALLY THE HUNGRY, THIRSTY, DISCONNECTED, SICK & PRISONER REVEALS WHETHER JESUS IS OUR SHEPHERD OR NOT !!!!***

**REGARDING:** THE HUNGRY, THIRSTY, DISCONNECTED, SICK and IMPRISONED ---

1<sup>st</sup> --- Always interpret the ‘obvious’ .. the ‘stated’

2<sup>nd</sup> --- Ask, could there be a deeper or alternative meaning?

i.e. The SPIRITUALLY HUNGRY, THIRSTY, DISCONNECTED, SICK & IMPRISONED

**WHOSE VOICE WILL YOU CHOOSE TO FOLLOW?  
THE GOOD SHEPHERD’S? Or ANOTHER?**

## 9-1-19 Summary of Parables of JESUS 6/22/19 to 9/1/19:

I trust that you've enjoyed our summer series through some of the Parables of Jesus ... I encourage you to reread each of these parables as part of your daily quiet time and devotions. Ask yourself:

- 1) **WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MAIN POINT? HOW DOES THIS PARABLE SPEAK TO YOU?**
- 2) **WHAT IS THE PRIMARY THOUGHT OR INKLING AS YOU READ THE PARABLE? THE HOLY SPIRIT OFTEN SPEAKS TO US THROUGH "INKLINGS" OR "THOUGHTS"**
- 3) **DOES AN APPLICATION TO YOUR LIFE OR POINT OF RELEVANCE COME TO MIND?**
- 4) **HOW HAS THIS PARABLE ENCOURAGED YOU OR CAUSED YOU TO RE-EVALUATE YOUR OWN LIFE?**

**6/23/19 The PARABLE OF THE WISE & FOOLISH BUILDERS (MATT 7:24-27)**  
Building our lives upon the strong and sturdy foundation of faith & trust in Jesus will secure our lives, our hopes, our dreams, and our families so that we can withstand the inevitable storms of life.

**6/30 /19 The PARABLE OF THE SOWER & THE SOILS (MATTHEW 13:1-23)**  
The parable of the sower teaches the importance of sowing seeds of faith in our world & recognizing deterrents that may frustrate people's response to God. This parable encourages us to help cultivate receptive spirits in others so that they may come to know and experience God in new and fruitful ways.

**7/7/19 The PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON (LUKE 15:11-31)**  
God's love for ALL of His children is incomprehensible. Being apart from God's love takes a toll --- sin has a cost. God does not sit passively by merely waiting for us to return to Him – but rather He seeks to renew and reconnect ALL of His children who have turned against or away from His love. AND there is an incredible party filled with celebration every time a lost child comes home to God's love.

**7/14/19 The PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED (MATTHEW 13:31-32)**  
The Kingdom of God starts small in the lives of all those who chose to BELIEVE in the life and direction of Jesus the Christ. But, as the life of God is cultivated and grows within us ... the love of God begins to grow in new ways so that others may be blessed by the love of God in us and through us ... and TOGETHER, as the church - -- we grow and share together in doing and being the family of God that God loves.

**7/21/19 The PARABLE OF THE WIDOW & UNJUST JUDGE (LUKE 18:1-8)**  
If an unjust and corrupt judge eventually delivers life-giving justice, certainly a loving God WILL BE FAITHFUL and can be relied upon to bring ultimate answers and relief for those whom He loves and cares ... we do not know 'why' God tarries, but we know that in due time ... God will make all things right. IN THE MEANTIME --- WE MUST NOT LOSE FAITH .. WE MUST PERSIST with the confidence of God's love and care for us ... ☺

**7/28/19 The PARABLE OF THE 10 BRIDESMAIDS (MATTHEW 25:1-13)**  
Jesus' parable draws from ancient Jewish marriage traditions & customs to help his audience understand that Jesus is like the bridegroom who is betrothed to his bride – the church ... JESUS will come in due time and will join with the church as part of the coming Kingdom Rule of God over all the earth ... that day WILL COME ... therefore, we must be PREPARED; REMAIN READY AND EXPECTING; and LOOK FORWARD TO JESUS' SECOND COMING.

**8/4/19 The PARABLE OF THE PHARISEE & TAX COLLECTOR (LUKE 18:9-14)**  
When we exclude ANYONE from God's grace, we run the risk of excluding ourselves from God's love & grace. God honors and uplifts the humble & honest heart but looks past and even ignores the presumptions of the proud. God examines our hearts and knows the true bent of our heart and soul.

**8/25/19 The PARABLE OF THE 10 MINAS (LUKE 19:11-26)**  
Jesus has given to everyone who believes in him special divine gifts – actually, Jesus INVESTS in us so that we might use these gifts and grow these gifts in such a way that the Kingdom of God grows and that we may share in the richness of God's love. How are you doing with all that God has entrusted to you, such as your family? Your job? Your neighbors & friends? Your home? Your church?

**9/1/10 THE PARABLE OF THE SHEEP & THE GOATS (MATTHEW 25:31-46)**  
Most likely the LAST parable that Jesus shared with his disciples BEFORE THE LAST SUPPER. WHAT WAS THE POINT?

- 1) IN THE END, SOME WILL DECIDE TO FOLLOW THE VOICE OF JESUS & OTHERS WILL NOT.
- 2) WHOSE VOICE WILL YOU FOLLOW?
- 3) The voice that leads to ETERNAL PRESENCE WITH GOD?  
Or the voice that leads to ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD?