

Great Day of Judgment or Death: Be Prepared!

In the world in which Jesus lived and taught, everyone had a vocabulary of words linked to kings and kingdoms. Therefore, when Jesus said, "The Kingdom of Elohim is here;" members of his Jewish audiences understood what that meant. There were no democracies. Kings issued decrees and expected people to obey them.

The *Parable of the Great Day of Judgment* (Matthew 25:31-46) begins by stating this is the judgment of all **nations.** In other words, the kings of the nations are being judged. In the parable, he revealed something very important that would be lost soon after the beginning of the second century CE. He didn't create a new kingdom. **He is the representative of the King of a Kingdom that was created when the Heavens and the Earth were created.**

- *The King of this Kingdom is "**the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth.**"*
- *The King created an Alliance with all humans, in which He is "**The Father of all Humans.**"*
- ***Every human**" is the "**child of the King**" and "**a brother or sister**" to **every other human.***
- *All humans are Representatives and Shepherds of the King. They are responsible for **caring for all life on the earth.***
- *Jesus demonstrated how an earthly king could be the Creator's Representative and Shepherd; thus **fulfilling his obligations to the Creator.** In doing this, the king would teach his subjects how to be loyal and faithful to the Creator, too.*

This parable reveals important relationship models:

- *Relationships between the Creator and all humans. He is "The Father" and humans are His "children."*
- *Relationships between all humans. Humans are all brothers and sisters to each other. They are His representatives and shepherds to all life on earth.*

Beginner's Guide for Exploring the Teachings of Jesus

Memorize these models and look for them in everything Jesus taught. Let's do a workout now. This is another very famous parable of Jesus (Luke 16:19-31).

*And **a certain man was rich** . . .
And there was **a certain poor man** . . .*

The first thing the models reveal in this parable is the rich man and the poor man are brothers in the eyes of the Creator.

*The rich man is dressed in purple and fine linen,
feasting every day, splendidly.*

*The poor man is covered with sores and desired
to be satisfied from things falling from the rich man's table.
He had been placed by his gate.*

- The first man's clothes and daily feasts reveal that he was very rich.
- The second man's sores, his desire eat food falling from a table, and the fact that someone had to place him at the gate reveal how very poor he was.

What does the rich man need to do to represent the Creator and act as His shepherd?

1. He could have carried the poor man in his house, cleaned his sores, given him better clothes, and fed him.
2. He could have ordered his servants to do the things above.

In either case, the rich man would have been a loyal and faithful child of the Creator.

And it came to pass, that the poor man died.

Be sure to note that the Great Day of Judgment has not come. It is still an event that will happen in the future. These events took place after death.

The angels carried him away into the bosom of Abraham.

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*At death, the eternal destination of the formerly poor man was determined. Abraham's bosom is the "**abode of bliss in the other world.**" It is "**where those who did acts of tzedakah during life went after death.**" Remember, in his life, Abraham was known for his "**hospitality.**" This man is now receiving the hospitality he never experienced in life.*

The rich man also died and was buried.

*And in **Sheol**, lifting up his eyes, being in the torments,
the rich man saw Abraham from afar, and the poor man in his bosom.*

*At death, the eternal destination of the formerly rich man was determined. He is now experiencing the pain the poor man suffered as he "**lifted his eyes and watched the rich man feasting.**" In life, the rich man could have very easily avoided an eternity in Sheol – *having to watch the other man enjoying the hospitality of Abraham forever!**

The purpose of both parables was to **help people remember these relationship models.** Use them to see others and yourself through the Creator's eyes. This is what the original Jesus did and taught!

Shalom,
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