



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Flock!

Matthew 25:31-46

Message #70 of 80 – S1110

Sermon given on July 14, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Flock!!

Matthew 25:31-46

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 24**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Flock!!**
- Chapters 24 began with the disciples commented to Jesus about how magnificent the temple in Jerusalem was.
- Jesus responded by telling them what the future of the temple was and what was coming for the Jewish people.
- That theme continues through the end of chapter 25, which is where we are today.
- Chapter 25 begins with two parables that have roughly the same message - Jesus is coming back!
- They also encourage God's people to be alert and ready and to be busy until He does come back.
- **Matthew 25:31**
- This is the third of three teachings in chapter 25 Jesus uses to teach about His Second Coming.
- The 'Son of Man' is Jesus.
- He is coming back, and it will be in all His glory.
- As Jesus stood before them and said these things His glory was hidden from them.
- When He comes back and establishes His kingdom on the earth, the whole world will see His glory and submit to Him and worship Him.
- But first, Jesus needs to pick His team and deal with those who are not on His team.
- **Matthew 25:32-33**
- In Israel at that time, most flocks were a mixture of sheep and goats.
- That is symbolic of this world.

- There are two groups – sheep and goats.
- In John 10, Jesus describes Himself as the Good Shepherd, and says this about the sheep (**John 10:3**)

The sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

- Only God can see into the human heart and know those people who are truly His.
- Jesus will see His sheep and set them on His right hand, which is the place of power and acceptance.
- Once the separation is complete King Jesus will speak to those on the right.

- **Matthew 25:34**

- As believers here in the Murrieta area we are not exposed to much of the things that make being a Christian hard.
- That is not to mean life is easy, but we are not experiencing true persecution, not like in many other parts of the world.
- But even here we might wonder, ‘Is it worth it to be a Christian?’
- Here is your answer.
- You have been blessed by God and promised an inheritance in the kingdom of heaven.
- ‘from the foundation of the world’ – At some point during the creation of the world and everything in it, God created the kingdom that His highest creation, mankind, would spend eternity with Him.
- Because God is holy, everything in His kingdom must be holy also.
- Sin entered the world and corrupted God’s perfect creation.
- Mankind was no longer holy and incapable of making themselves holy.
- Because God loves mankind, He sent Jesus to make a way for us to be holy and therefore blessed and welcome in the kingdom of God (**John 3:16**).

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- And also (**John 14:6**).

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

- Sometimes life is hard in this sin-wrecked world.

- And sometimes it is hard because you are a Christian.
- When you hear, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father,’ you will know that it is all worth it.
- Jesus goes on to describe how His sheep have treated Him during their lives.
- **Matthew 25:35-39**
- ‘the righteous’ – These are not perfect, sinless people.
- These are people who are in a right relationship with God.
- They have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.
- It is not that they are righteous in their own self, but they are covered in the righteousness of Christ through faith.
- The response of the righteous is evidence that they were not doing these things out of a legalistic sense of duty or adherence to religious commands.
- A believer’s attitude and actions toward the less fortunate is evidence of the presence of God’s transforming love in their heart (**Romans 5:5**).

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

- Loving others, especially other believers, is evidence of true faith.
- Jesus then goes on to tell the sheep when they ministered to Him.
- **Matthew 25:40**
- Jesus connects Himself to the needy.
- That is how we, as pre-Rapture believers, connect ourselves to this text. This world has an abundance of needy people.
- Expressing love through acts of kindness and generosity to the less fortunate is the same as loving Christ.
- Jesus refers to those who were helped as His brethren.
- I can’t help but think of the Good Shepherd (John 10:14-15).
- Just as a good shepherd would care for his flock, Jesus cares for His flock.
- While Jesus does a lot for people supernaturally, most of the help He sends for His needy sheep is sent to other sheep who are not as needy.

- We are free to use everything God gives us however we like, but the love of God compels us to use them not just for ourselves, but also to meet the need of those needy people God brings us to.
 - The King then turns His attention to the goats on His left.
 - **Matthew 25:41-46**
 - ‘you cursed’ – marked by God to experience divine harm.
 - How does someone become cursed?
 - They don’t, they are born cursed (**John 3:18**).
- He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**
- It is hereditary, it is handed down from our parents, all the way back to Adam and Eve.
 - To escape the curse, one only needs to repent and believe that Jesus died for their sins.
 - The goats are those who refused to repent, rejected God’s forgiveness and grace.
 - ‘everlasting fire’ – Heaven is a real place.
 - It was created as a place where righteous humans will dwell with God forever.
 - We love to think about and talk about heaven.
 - A much less appealing place to talk about is this place of everlasting fire, or hell.
 - Just as heaven is a real place, so is hell.
 - Heaven was created by God as a place for humans to spend eternity with Him.
 - Notice, hell was not created for humans, but for the devil and his demons.
 - Satan rebelled and led a third of the angels to rebel with him, they were condemned to eternity separated from God in everlasting fire.
 - If someone rejects God’s amazing grace of forgiveness of sins through faith in Christ, they remain condemned and disqualified from heaven.
 - There is only one other place they can go – to everlasting fire.
 - You have probably heard someone say, ‘How can a loving God send someone to hell?’

- He doesn't – He gives them the choice.
 - Everyone was born headed to hell because of sin.
 - God gives them an offramp through faith in Christ Jesus (**2 Peter 3:9**). **The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**
 - The only people who will end up in hell are those who rejected God's gracious offer of forgiveness and continued the path sin was leading them down.
 - Today, it is my guess that I am speaking almost exclusively to the sheep of Christ's flock.
 - What is God's message for us this morning?
 - Let's read verses 35 to 40 again.
 - In our culture we are surrounded and outnumbered by goats.
 - We might not always be able tell them apart.
 - So, what should we do. The easy answer is, "Love God!"
 - The way we express love for God is by loving others through faith and obedience to God's Word and in the name of Christ.
 - That might be very hard, but the Apostle Paul exhorts us to keep trying (**2 Thessalonians 3:13**).
- But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.**
- No matter what, keep doing good.
 - We are going to partake of Communion this morning.
 - We do it to remember what Jesus did to make us the sheep of His flock.
 - First, rejoice because He was speaking of you when He said, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world..."
 - Second, if there is anything the Lord is telling you need to deal with – do it!
 - Third, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any 'good' He is calling you to do – then do it.
 - You are a part of Christ's flock – thank Him.
 - **Pray! Communion! Last Song!**