

## Matthew 25:31- 46 The Judgment of the Nations

Introduction: Following the Parable of the Ten Virgins and the Parable of the Talents it would be easy to consider this another parable, but it is a prophetic declaration of a judgment that will take place in the opening of the millennium. Jesus has been rejected by the Jews and in two days will be crucified. He is trying to get His disciples to look beyond to a time of great victory and glory.

### I. The throne of Jesus established, verse 31.

- A. When Jesus came before, He came meek and lowly; but when He returns He is going to come in might and glory.
  - 1. He will come in a display of all the grandeur and glory of deity God.
  - 2. He will be accompanied by the holy angels.
- B. He will sit upon the throne of His glory.
  - 1. This is David's throne in Jerusalem.
  - 2. From this throne He will rule the world.
- C. This means that He will have already conquered the Anti-Christ.

### II. The nations called before His throne in judgment, verse 32.

- A. The word “nations” does not refer to governments as such.
  - 1. The Greek word is often translated “Gentiles” and sometimes “people”.
  - 2. The better translation in this verse would be “people”.
- B. The people here are all the people of the world who have survived the Great Tribulation.
  - 1. The tribulation was so bad that if it had lasted long there would be no survivors.
  - 2. There are so few left after Armageddon that all can be gathered together before the throne at Jerusalem.
- C. The purpose of the judgment is to separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

### III. The separation of the sheep from the goats, verse 33.

- A. The word “sheep” here refers not to animals but to the saved.
  - 1. These are not those who were raptured because these are people still in their flesh and blood bodies living upon the earth.
  - 2. They are people who were saved after the rapture, probably as a result of the ministry of the Two Witnesses.
  - 3. Physically, they are flesh and blood like everybody else. (Not glorified.)
  - 4. But spiritually there is a vast difference. (They are sheep.)
  - 5. These are given a place of honor at the Lord's right hand.
- B. The goats are the unsaved who are alive at the time of our Lord's return. (The unsaved dead will not be raised and judged until after the millennium, Revelations 20:5.)

### IV. The judgment of the sheep, verses 34-40.

- A. The sheep are not judged to see if they are saved or lost; they are already identified as sheep.
- B. They are invited to enter into the millennial Kingdom, verse 34.
  - 1. Still in their natural bodies they will enter into the millennium.
  - 2. As Noah repopulated the earth after the flood, these will repopulate the earth after the Tribulation and Armageddon.
- C. They will be judged and rewarded for their works, verses 35-40.
  - 1. They are not saved by their works, Galatians 3:11; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9.
  - 2. Rather they do good works because they are saved.

V. The judgment of the goats, verses 41- 44.

- A. These are not judged unsaved because of their evil works; rather their works are bad because they are unsaved.
- B. They will be judged and rewarded (punished) according to their works.
- C. Their works will testify that the Lord is just in issuing such a severe sentence upon them.

VI. A contrast in the two destinies involved, verse 46.

- A. It was already said that the sheep would inherit the Kingdom – the millennial Kingdom from the Father, verse 34.
  - 1. This would imply that after the millennium, they would be among those who inherit the eternal Kingdom of the Father.
  - 2. What was implied inverse 34 is declared in verse 46.
- B. The unsaved will go into eternal torment.
  - 1. They will go into everlasting fire that was never intended for human beings, verse 41.
  - 2. They will not go out of existence, but will suffer there forever, verse 46.
  - 3. The unsaved who survive the Tribulation and Armageddon will not enter into the millennium to have another chance at salvation. (Rather they will enter the fires of hell.)
  - 4. Nobody who is unsaved at the time of this judgment will ever have another chance to be saved.
  - 5. He will go immediately into everlasting fire and will not be left here on earth during the millennium.
  - 6. That is why Jesus put so much stress upon the need to be watchful for His return and to be ready when He does return.

Conclusion:

- 1. Are you saved?
- 2. Are you doing the kind of works that would bring you reward when He comes?

Preach at Pleasant Hill 11-23-86 A.M.