

**God With Us**  
 “The Final Judgement”  
 Matthew 25:31-46

*“Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And He will place the sheep on the right, but the goats on the left.” (Matthew 25:32-33)*

### I. The Separation and Responsibility

- a. This is not really a “judgment” scene. There is no debate. No witnesses are called, because a person’s identity and destiny are written all over them before coming to the judgment.
- b. This is the test, *As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did to Me.* (v.40)
- c. Those who cared for the needy and those who rejected them, will find out that it was Jesus they reacted to. Both goats and sheep say, *When, Lord?*
- d. Although Jesus speaks of the poor and of those who live on the outer fringes of society, this text is not just about social action. The text is *not* about justification by works.
- e. We do not gain entrance to heaven by “*working* our way there.” Our faith in Christ should motivate our holy activity on earth. Our relationship with Christ should inform us of what to do.
- f. The goats and the sheep were together up until the last moment.
- g. *At the Final Judgement*, both the goats and the sheep will have the opportunity to speak.
- h. The sheep were described as the righteous. The goats were described as being cursed, because they failed to act in a manner that honored Christ.
- i. Both sheep and goats were aware of the human condition. The goats failed to love and act.

### II. Lessons to Be Learned

- a. We are accountable. We are free to live as we please, but at the end we shall have to give account to the One who gave us life.
- b. Judgment awaits everyone. There will be no exception, favoritism or excuses. It will be 100% fair.
- c. We are not all going in the same direction. We will not all end up in the same place. It is possible to be utterly lost, and Jesus warns us of that possibility here.
- d. There will be great surprises on that day. Many people who were very confident of their condition will be shocked. Yet, many other people will be shocked they were received by Christ.
- e. The heart of Christianity is relationship with Jesus Himself, which is demonstrated in loving, sacrificial care for others, especially the poor and the needy.
- f. We will be face to face with our Jesus and we need to be clear about three great realities:
- g. His coming will be sudden, unexpected, and decisive. Therefore, even now we should be caring for the poor, those who lack clothing, strangers, the prisoners and the sick. In this way they express the love of God that they talk about.
- h. If we look like His sheep, we should act like His sheep by following the Shepherd’s lead.

### III. Word Reflection and Application

- a. What assures us of being received by Christ? Our feet and hands must have faith. Faith activates action. If we are able-bodied, we cannot truly say that we are Christians absent of service.
- b. Jesus holds up for us a standard for practical, Calvary-like love. (ill. Joni Eareckson Tada)
- c. The uncomfortable love test: How have you treated the poor and the outcasts?
- d. Jesus wants to find His servants watchful, holy, ready to meet Him at any time, being faithful in the use of their gifts and overflowing with love.