



FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

LEARNING FROM THE MASTER (JESUS CHRIST- OUR CHIEF CORNERSTONE)

STUDY 21-66 – THE PARABLES OF JESUS - Parable No. 41- The Parable of the Sheep and Goats

TEXT: Matt. 25:31-46

LAST WEEK: Parable of The TEN VIRGINS (MATT.25:1-13)

LESSONS: - Be ready. The price for failing to be ready is too high.

It is a warning addressed specifically to those inside the professing church who are not to assume that their future is unconditionally assured.

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats (Matt. 25:31-46)

INTRODUCTION

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats is part of the Olivet Discourse. It is found in Matthew 25:31-46.

Jesus begins the parable by saying it concerns His return in glory to set up His kingdom (Matthew 25:31). Therefore, the setting of this event is at the beginning of the millennium, after the tribulation.

The judgment of the nations

This is the judgment of the nations, and is distinct from the final judgment for several reasons:

- It happens at a different time. The Great White Throne judgment of Revelation 20:11-15 clearly happens after the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ and His saints. The Judgment of the Nations of Matthew 25 happens immediately after the glorious return of Jesus (Matthew 25:31-32).
- It happens at a different place. The Great White Throne judgment of Revelation 20 happens in heaven; the Judgment of the Nations of Matthew 25 happens on earth.
- It happens unto different subjects. The Great White Throne judgment of Revelation 20 emphatically includes all unredeemed men and women. The Judgment of the Nations of Matthew 25 seems only to include the nations – that is Gentiles who are judged in large measure on their kindness and care towards [in part] the Jewish people (My brethren).
- It happens on a different basis.

The goats and the sheep

All those on earth at that time will be brought before the Lord, and He will separate them (verses 32–33). The sheep are those who were saved during the tribulation; the goats are the unsaved who survived the tribulation.

The sheep on Jesus' right hand are blessed by God the Father and given an inheritance. (verses 35-40).

The goats on Jesus' left hand are cursed with eternal hell-fire, (Verse 41- 45).

Jesus then ends the discourse with a contrast: "They will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life" (verse 46).

The charge against the lost ones did not concern any obvious moral violation, but their indifferent attitude toward Jesus (and His people). Their indifference sealed their doom, the price of indifference is too high to pay.

- We cannot afford to be indifferent towards Jesus and His return.
- We can't afford to be indifferent towards the Holy Spirit who makes us ready for the return of Jesus.
- We can't afford to be indifferent towards the resources that God gives us.
- We can't afford to be indifferent towards the needy people all around us.
- We can't afford to be indifferent towards lost humanity that will stand in judgment.

The Lesson:

The core message of the Parable of the Sheep and Goats is that God's people will love others. Good works will result from our relationship to the Shepherd. Followers of Christ will treat others with kindness, serving them as if they were serving Christ Himself.