

Parables of Jesus part 26

various scriptures

“And the King will answer them. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” -Matthew 25:40

In your opinion what does it mean to bear spiritual fruit and why is this so important for believers today?

“The real evidence of our belief is the way we _____.”

Matthew 7:16

Context: Historically speaking, the day is Tuesday evening of the passion week. Jesus has been encouraging his disciples to love His appearing, to look for his appearing, and to _____ faithfully until He comes. In this final parable, He not only describes the scene of judgment of upon the nations, but also reveals the character and nature of those who truly belong to Him.

Parable of the Sheep and Goats: Matthew 25:31-46

- Second coming of Christ: verses 31-32a

This is a picture of the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the great tribulation. In light of the text, what will take place when Jesus returns?

*All nations will be gathered _____

*He will _____ them one from another.

In reflecting on the return of Christ and all that will take place, what are three things you can do to encourage others?

Supporting scriptures: Revelation 14:6-13; 20:11-15

- Separation of Christ: verses 32b-46

How will He separate them?

*Sheep and _____ or Believers and _____

Naturally speaking, what are some differences between sheep and goats?

*Sheep tend to _____ the voice of their shepherd.

*Goats tend to go their _____ way. Ezekiel 34:17-24

In Ezekiel the Lord describes the goats as trampling on the pasture, muddying up the water, and scattering the flock. Spiritually speaking, there are those who take heed and obey God's Word, and then there are those who follow their own desires and create havoc in God's flock.

Notice how Jesus separates the two, not their ***nationality*** but by their ***nature***.

He places the sheep on the _____ and goats on the _____.

How were the sheep treated in the text? (34)

*invited in

*_____ by the Father

*They inherit the _____

Why did they receive this treatment?

*Fed the _____

*Gave water to the _____

*Provided hospitality to _____

*Supplied clothing to those who were _____

*Aided those who were _____

*Visited those who were in _____

As you view this list, what are two ways you can encourage others to embrace these kind of actions?

*These acts do not depend on _____, ability, or intelligence; they are freely given and freely received. None of us are excused from helping those who have a deep need.

*They are evidence of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Matthew 26:11

How did the sheep (righteous) respond to what the King said and what was their motive?

*They were _____

*Their motive was _____ 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Notice the King's response in verse 40

Do you believe you are doing all you can to help those who are in need? What is one action you can take to do more?

Proverbs 19:17

How were the goats treated? (41)

*They were _____ from his presence

*Cursed into the eternal _____

Why did they receive this treatment?

Because they did _____ to help those who were in need. Although they asked the same question as the righteous, the king reminded whatever they **did not** do for the least they ***did not*** do for him.

The ultimate separation was eternal punishment vs. eternal life....

Is Jesus saying our eternal destiny is based off of what we do for others? Why or why not?

James 2:14-18

In other words, Jesus is saying here in this parable that on judgement day, he will look for the _____ that we belong to him and that _____ will be shown in how we've treated the least of his brothers and sisters.

What is one thing you have learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

“Love is not about how much you say *I love you*, but how much you prove that it’s true.”