

Living As The Sheep

Passage: Matthew 25:31-46

I. There Will Be A Final Judgement

- A. Humanity will be _____ – vs. 31-33
 - i. “Sheep” represent those who are redeemed and were faithful to Christ.
 - ii. “Goats” represent the lost/unsaved who were not faithful to Christ.
- B. This judgement ushers in the _____ state – vs. 41, 46
 - i. The verdicts are _____
 - ii. The righteous will inherit eternal life in God’s kingdom – vs. 46b
 - iii. The unrighteous will be cursed with eternal punishment in an everlasting fire

II. The Distinction Between the Righteous (Sheep) And the Unrighteous (Goats)

- A. The Righteous demonstrate their _____ for God and others – vs. 34-40
 - i. Righteous works are the _____ of true salvation and true love
 - ii. The _____ of the Righteous is demonstrated through acts of love – vs. 35, 36; James 1:27; 2:14-26
- B. The Righteous are defined by these works of love, humility, and service
- C. The Unrighteous live in unbelief and _____ – vs. 41-46

Conclusions for Discipleship

1. Being a disciple of Jesus is much more than attending worship services, holding particular beliefs, and knowing doctrine. Being a disciple of Jesus is grounded in the two great commandments: (1) Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind; (2) Love everyone else with the love Christ has given us.
2. The only way to fulfill the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 is to live a life that is focused upon bringing God glory in everything you do and showing love to others. The way we show love for others is by sacrificing for them, putting up with them, demonstrating acts of kindness towards them, forgiving them, praying for them continually, intentionally serving them, sacrificing for them, etc. But most of all, the way

we show love to them is by sharing the gospel of Christ with them. We should seek to show our family, neighbors, community, and the whole world the love of Christ so that we might open door to sharing the gospel with them.

Personal Reflection Questions

1. Is the righteousness of your life reflective of the descriptions and principles found in Matthew 25 and James 1-2? Or, have you been guilty of relegating your understanding of righteousness to religious duties (i.e., church attendance, tithing, morals, etc.)?
2. What are some specific ways you can be more righteous (show love) to those in your life?
3. Do you have the attitude of a sacrificial servant who is willing to sacrifice anything for the benefit and welfare of others? Or, are you guilty of living for yourself?
4. What is the name of one individual that God has placed in your life that needs Jesus? What can you do in the next week to show them the love of Christ and take the opportunity to share with them the gospel?
5. Have you truly been honest about your salvation? Have you truly been redeemed by Jesus Christ and this salvation has thus prompted you to return love and service to him? Or, have you been spending your life trying to achieve salvation by your own righteous works? Only when we are willing to be honest with ourselves will we ever be set free by the truth of Christ's gospel.