



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

November 25-27, 2023 – Christ the King

Matthew 25:31-46

All the Nations will be gathered before Him.

On Tuesday of Holy Week Jesus left the temple and was sitting on the Mount of Olives with his disciples. This is his last parable in response to their request, “Tell us, when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of this age?”

Verse 31: He pictures his return just as Daniel had foretold in his prophecy. Jesus is the “Son of Man.” His glory and his sitting on the throne tell us Jesus is truly the Son of God in the flesh. Which part of the Apostles’ Creed reflects this verse?

Verse 32: Is it not hard to tell the difference between a sheep and a goat. It is not hard for Jesus tell the difference between those who are his and those who are not. Which part of our modern legal system and its processes could be pictured here?

Verse 33: There are only two options. There is no inbetween when it comes to God’s judgment. What does being on the right side symbolize?

Verse 34: This was not a momentary decision. God planned the blessings and the gift of his grace. What does it mean to be “blessed by my Father?”

What does the fact that we are part of God’s creation remind us of as we go through “my” life?

Verse 35-36: These are not extraordinary feats such as healing or raising the dead, but acts of love, selflessness and kindness. What brings a Christian to do such acts “naturally?”

Verse 37-39: How does God make you righteous?

How do we reflect that in our lives?

Why do those on his right think they are undeserving or at least confused about when they served Jesus?

Verse 40: A man is not changed from the outside in, but from the inside out. How has Jesus changed us from the inside out?

What do we do in our everyday lives as his changed people (Jesus sees this as evidence that we are his)?

Jesus associates with “the least.” How is that different from the world’s view of power, purpose, goals, accomplishments?

How should we treat “the least?”

Verse 41-45: Hell was originally prepared for the devil and his angels. God’s will is that all be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. But some reject the Lord and his free gift of salvation. This grieves us too. Scripture tells us, “Without faith, it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6). How is that evidenced by those on the left who are sent to hell no matter how many works they did?

Verse 46: There are only two places we will end up for all eternity: hell or heaven. Purgatory, limbo, and other possible places are made up and not in Scripture. What did Jesus do to make us righteous in his sight so that he sets us on his right side and welcomes us into heaven?

God bless you as you follow the King!