

LESSON 31

OUR TRUE COLOURS

Hear & Obey | [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

OPENING QUESTIONS: OUR TEXT IN CONTEXT

1. What was the historical situation in the life of Jesus and his disciples when he presented this teaching (Matthew 25:31-46)?
2. What is the literary context of this text. Hint: the five blocks of Jesus' teaching in Matthew's Gospel. What is this one about and how does it relate to the other four blocks of teaching?
3. The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats is the last of four related parables in Matthew 24-25. The other three are the Faithful and Wise Servant (24:45-51), the Ten Maidens (25:1-13), and the Talents (25:14-30). What do all four parables have in common?

THINKING QUESTIONS: INTERPRETING THE TEXT

1. Parables compare. What comparisons does the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats make? Fill in the blanks below and draw some conclusions
It compares Jesus to _____.
It compares sheep to _____.
It compares goats to _____.
2. Where does the parable end and the direct teaching of Jesus begin? On what grounds? And what difference does it make?
3. Summarise the essential meaning of the parable, and show how it relates to the teaching of Jesus in :31-46.
4. Some people teach that the sorting out in verse 32 is by nations: sheep-nations to the right and goat-nations to the left. Some English Bibles do give that impression. But the Greek text is clear. The sorting is by individuals, not nations. So what difference does this make?
5. Who are included in "the least of these my brothers" (:40)? Try to support your answer on biblical and theological grounds.

MATTHEW: THE DISCIPLEMAKER MANUAL

Sermon Series
Bible Study

PASSAGE FOCUS

Matthew 25:31-46 is Jesus' last lesson to his disciples in Matthew before he dies. It's a preview of the Last Judgment and the final separation between the righteous and the wicked.

STUDY GUIDE

LISTEN

Listen to the sermon on the passage before you begin the study. If you missed it, you can watch the recording on the CPC Website or Youtube Channel.

REFLECT

Take some unhurried time to read through the passage and reflect on the questions.

SHARE

Answer the questions and share with your Life Group.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS: OBEYING THE WORD

1. Matthew 25:40 and 45 indicate that whatever we do or don't do for the poor and needy we do or don't do for Jesus.

What are some practical implications of this?

First, for us as individuals?

Second, for our corporate ministry to our community?

And third, for our mission work abroad?

2. Most of us are so fortunate that we seldom come into direct contact with destitute people. What steps can we take to get more practically and personally involved in ministering to those who are poor, homeless, sick, and in prison?

3. According to Jesus, works of love and mercy can make the difference between eternal life and eternal punishment in the age to come. This creates a tension between *justification by faith* and *judgment by works*. How do we resolve this tension?

While there are no short and easy answers, your group discussion must be brief. But later on, individually, please approach the question by means of this spiritual exercise:

¹⁾ Read and reflect on 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 John 3:14 and 4:7-8. Take notes as you do.

²⁾ In light of these verses, journal a personal and practical response to the above question (number 32).