

Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV)

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Sermon for November 26, 2023: www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online

ADVENT: Join the CCUA family each day as we journey together through Advent devotional readings from *Joy of Every Longing Heart* and prayer with CCUA pastors, staff and leaders on CCUA’s Facebook page or at www.collegechurch.org/Christmas. **We begin our journey December 3 and wrap up on Christmas Day!**

Be sure to grab your household copy of the devotional book from the CCUA’s office. For more details about this season, catch my Advent introduction video on social media or our Christmas webpage.

KNOW ... *God and his Word.*

- This is the last parable in Jesus' eschatological — death, judgment, eternal destiny — discourse. Does this passage sound like a parable to you? Why or why not? What does it sound like?
- This passage tells of a final judgment and eternal verdict to be given on all nations and people yet to come by the Son of Man, who is Jesus the King. What groups are people divided into in the parable? Name the characteristics or actions/inactions that make up each group.
- What is the King's judgement criteria in this parable? What did those who were obedient in living out the ways of the kingdom receive? What did the disobedient receive?
- Each group's answer to the King's pronounced judgement is similar, "Lord, when did we see you ..." Both seemed unaware of their actions but for seemingly different reasons (based on their eternal outcomes). How was the first group unaware of their actions? What actions or inactions created the response for the second group? (*Hint: see vs. 40 and 45*).
- Does the judgment criteria and eternal reward or punishment surprise you? Why or why not?
- What stood out to you in this passage or from Pastor Marvin's sermon? Discuss any additional insights, thoughts, or questions you may have.

ACT ... *responding to & applying what we know.*

- What do your ordinary days look like? Describe them. Where are the places that Christ might be found in your ordinary day? How do you or could you respond in those places?
- Pastor Marvin said, "We will not see him [Jesus], unless we first see ourselves there." Jesus is found in the unexpected places where need ... deep need lives in the human heart and life, a place where his loving-kindness is to be faithfully lived out.

Where have you been? Name the places you've been that were/are hard or uncomfortable. Did you see Jesus there? Describe that Jesus' sighting.

- Define the following: sins of commission, sins of omission. As you end your group or your devotional time, ask God to point out any unconfessed sin (commission or omission) in your life. Confess the sin(s) and repent. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you where you can faithfully live out God's loving-kindness to others in need.

BE ... *living in light of what we've heard, becoming more like Christ.*

GIVE THANKS to God for his loving kindness to you. ASK the Holy Spirit to guide you in living out the kingdom around you, going where Jesus would go.

Continue being FAITHFUL ... no matter how long it takes for our Lord to arrive.

KEEP becoming more like Jesus, living as a good and faithful servant as you wait!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Angela

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