

Introduction:

- 25:31-46 Speaks of the final judgement by the Son of Man.
- The theme of the parousia has dominated this chapter and much of chapter 24. And now it comes to a climax.
- We have seen in the preceding parables what 'readiness and responsibility' regarding the delayed parousia means. Now we see more detail as to what that looks like when it is happening especially regard the 'least of our brothers.'
- Matthew writes this to bring his fullest conviction of the fact that when the Son of Man returns he will fully *reward every person according to what they have done*. 16:27
- This passage is to reveal that Jesus is the ultimate powerful wise judge.

I. The Final Judgement - "When the Son of Man Comes"

A. Read Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

1. *"I watched as thrones were put in place and the Ancient One sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, his hair like purest wool. He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire, and a river of fire was pouring out, flowing from his presence. Millions of angels ministered to him; many millions stood to attend him. Then the court began its session, and the books were opened."* (Daniel 7:9-10, NLT)
2. *"As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed."* (Daniel 7:13-14, NLT)
 - a) Son of Man language.
 - b) All authority
 - c) Coming with clouds of heaven
 - d) His Kingdom will never end.

B. The nations will be gathered.

1. The OT imagery continues. Joel 3:1-12.— The nations are gathered to be judged for their mistreatment of Israel.
2. Here all are being judged!
3. The theme of an ultimate division between the saved and the lost has recurred in many different contexts in this gospel. (7:13-27; 8:11-12; 10:32-33; 13:40-43, 49-50; 16:25-26 and the whole of 24:36-25:30.)

C. The Ancient of Days separates the sheep from the goats.

1. Sheep to the right hand signifying favor.
2. Goats to the left hand, disfavor.

3. "the striking feature of this judgment scene is that both sheep and goats claim that they *did not know* that their actions were directed toward Jesus." France, R. T. (2007). [*The Gospel of Matthew*](#) (p. 959). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.

II. The King Will Say To the Sheep "Then the King will say..." vs 34

- A. The King is the Son of God and He is say those on the right they are blessed by the Father.
- B. Inherit the Kingdom prepared for you! (Beautiful expression if you are a sheep!)
 1. Those who prepare have something by the Father prepared for them.
 2. The meaning of this group is (active) "making ready" and (passive) "readiness"-Kittle
 - a) Faith without works is dead. James
 - b) In each parable was the requirement to do something in order to be ready 'in delay.'
- C. God prepares good things for those who love him (1 Cor. 2:9).
 1. This salvation is the heart of the kerygma. It is present in Christ (Lk. 2:30-31). In him the feast is prepared (Mt. 22:4, 8). But it is also future. God is also preparing us for salvation (Rom. 9:23).
 2. We are to enter into a prepared kingdom (Mt. 25:34).
 3. Jesus is preparing a place for us (Jn. 14:2).
 4. His death and resurrection prepare salvation (cf. 1 Pet. 1:5).
 5. He has prepared the good works in which we are to walk (Eph. 2:10).
- D. We are to be ready!
 1. Baptist prepares the way of the Lord (Mt. 3:3). Individuals must prepare for fellowship with God (Ps. 108:1). Amos summons the people to prepare to meet their God (4:12). Israel, like Moses, must be ready to receive God's revelation (Ex. 19:11ff.). In the NT readiness is demanded as readiness for good works (Tit. 3:1), readiness for witness (1 Pet. 3:15; Eph. 6:15), and readiness for the Lord's return (Mt. 24:44).
 2. Readiness gives the Christian life a distinctive dynamic character as expectation of the goal of salvation and openness to the possibilities of action determined by this goal. kittle
- E. The Sheep are declared righteous vs 37 and this prepares us for the verdict of vs 46.

III. The King Will Say To the Goats "Then the King will say..." vs 34

- A. The account is the same as was said of the righteous only this group ignores the 'least' and stands cursed.
- B. Those who stand in disfavor. They are not cursed not so much because they did wrong but that they did nothing. Remember, on the temple mount the Pharisees were judged and condemned because they did not help the people. They heaped burdens upon them. Jesus since that time has been 'drilling' into His disciples what it means to be ready and responsible.
 1. These are the unprepared

2. Yet God has something prepared for them. He prepares eternal destruction 25:41 for the devil and his demons and the unprepared.
- C. *""And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.""* (Matthew 25:46, NLT)
 1. There are only two outcomes to judgement. Again the answers are seen in Daniel. *"Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace."* (Daniel 12:2, NLT)
 - a) Outcome number one: eternal life - zoe
 - b) Outcome number two: eternal punishment.

Conclusion:

- We want to live honoring all of God creation...people...especially those of the household of faith.
- Jesus brothers seem to be those who have put their faith in Him. Mt 12:50
- We now shift from discourse to action once again.