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Matthew 25:31-40 part 2

31. “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

32. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

33. and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

34. Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation 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. naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to 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. ‘And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?

39. ‘When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’

40. The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.’”

This passage makes it very clear then when Jesus returns we will be judged by what we have given to others during our life here on earth. And specifically, we will be judged worthy of eternal life by what we have done for Jesus’ brothers and sisters--namely other Christians. Jesus puts it this way in verse 40: “The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’”

So what have you done for King Jesus this past year?

Have you provided food or drink to a brother or sister in Christ? Have you provided meals for any children--all the children belong to Jesus, you know. As Jesus stated earlier in Matthew 18:5, “Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me.” Or in Matthew 10:42, “Whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

This past year, have you invited someone in the church over to your home for fellowship, someone whom you didn’t previously know? Or maybe a traveling missionary or evangelist? We are not to be strangers to one another in the Lord’s church.

Have you provided clothing for others in your

congregation? Maybe children's clothing for a family with several kids. But more importantly, what about those who are spiritually naked? We are to search for Jesus' lost sheep and share the gospel so they can obey and be clothed with Christ.

Have you visited the sick, and brought them encouragement, laughter, and medicine? Many old people in our nation must face the harsh reality of either buying food or buying medicine. This should never be the case within the body of Christ.

Or what about those who have gone to prison for Christ's sake? Are you ready and willing to minister to them? And what about those Christians who are trapped in the jailhouse of their sins? Have you gone to them and ministered to their need? Have you laid your life down to pull them out of the fires of sin and death?

As you consider today, what you have done for Christ: Where will you stand on the day of judgment? Will you be separated with the sheep or with the goats? How we treat God's people will make all the difference, for all eternity.

Let us pray that we all do better next year for our King.