

Matthew 25:31-46: When the Son of Man comes in His glory, & all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² Before Him will be gathered all the nations, & He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right, “Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry & you gave Me food, I was thirsty & you gave Me drink, I was a stranger & you welcomed Me, ³⁶ I was naked & you clothed Me, I was sick & you visited me, I was in prison & you came to me.” ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, “Lord, when did we see You hungry & feed You, or thirsty & give You drink? ³⁸ And when did we see You a stranger & welcome You, or naked & clothe You? ³⁹ And when did we see You sick or in prison & visit You?” ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.” ⁴¹ Then He will say to those on His left, “Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil & his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry & you gave Me no food, I was thirsty & you gave Me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger & you did not welcome Me, naked & you did not clothe Me, sick & in prison & you did not visit Me.” ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, “Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, & did not minister to You?” ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, “Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.” ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Intro: In parables, with His last Words to His disciples before He dies, Jesus has been teaching them to be ready for His return. Last week: All that you have is a gift from the most loving & most merciful Christ, so by His power & grace, use His gifts faithfully for His glory! Now, He tells us what His return will be like without a parable: King Jesus will return in glory & separate the righteous from the wicked, so pursue God & His blessedness through love

1. The Son Of Man Is Coming Back

Matthew 25:31: When the Son of Man comes

a. The term “Son of Man” is used throughout Scripture to make a contrast between weak, lowly, changeable, mortal man & the powerful, glorious, unchanging, everlasting God:

- **Psalm 8:4:** what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?
- **Psalm 146:3:** Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
- **Isaiah 51:12:** who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass

b. The term “Son of Man” is also used for the divine, God-Man Messiah: Daniel 7:13-14: In my vision at night I looked, & there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days & was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory & sovereign power; all peoples, nations & men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, & his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Jesus says that this Son of Man in Daniel 7 is Him! - Matthew 26:64: (Jesus to the high priest) from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.

D. A. Carson: Only when under oath & when it no longer mattered whether his enemies heard his clear claim to messiahship did Jesus reveal without any ambiguity at all that he, the Son of Man, was the messianic figure of Daniel 7:13-14; & then his opponents did not realize that an essential part of his messiahship was suffering & death. In Jesus’ ministry, “Son of Man” both reveals & conceals.

Jesus is the son of man (human, weak, & lowly) & He’s the SON OF MAN (God, all powerful, Who receives worship!): **James Boice:** In Matthew . . . he uses “Son of Man” to affirm his full deity, to teach that he has authority on earth to forgive sin, that he would ransom his people from their sins, that he would die on the cross & rise from the dead on the third day, & that he will return one day in judgment.

He was crucified in weakness, as a man, & died, bearing the wrath of God! But then rose up with all power! Son of Man preserves both of these truths! He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah & the Lamb slain for sinners! **GOSPEL!**

Matt 1:21: you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins; **John 10:11, 26:** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep . . .²⁶you do not believe because you are not My sheep

The assassination attempt & the Gospel: Luke 13:1-5: There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell & killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

2. The Son Of Man's Return Will Be Glorious

Matthew 25:31: When the Son of Man comes in His glory, & all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

a. He's coming in His glory: What is His glory? (Infinite!) Power, beauty, greatness, light, fire, amazing wonder!

- **Exodus 33:18-19:** Moses said, "Please show me Your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you & will proclaim before you My name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, & will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."

- **John Piper:** The glory of God is the infinite beauty & greatness of God's manifold perfections.

b. All the angels are coming with Him: 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10: When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God & on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord & from the glory of His might,¹⁰ when He comes on that day to be glorified in His saints, & to be marveled at among all who have believed

John Piper: The terms angel or angels occur in the Bible close to three hundred times, so this is not a marginal reality in Scripture. Here's a sample:

- Angels announced things about the birth of Jesus to Mary (Luke 1:26–38), Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:11–23), Joseph (Matthew 1:20–21), and the shepherds (Luke 2:8–14).
- They ministered to Jesus in the wilderness after his forty-day fast (Mark 1:13).
- They rolled the stone away from Jesus's grave (Matthew 28:2).
- They opened prison doors for the apostles (Acts 5:19–20).
- They directed evangelists where to go, like Philip (Acts 8:26).
- They spoke to unbelievers like Cornelius about what they should do to find the gospel (Acts 10:3–8).
- They will come with Jesus, the Bible says, at his second coming (2 Thessalonians 1:7).

1) Angels minister to the saints; Angels call attention to the worth of every believer: Hebrews 1:14: Are they [angels] not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

2) Angels execute God's will: Psalm 103:20-21: Bless the LORD, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His word, obeying the voice of His word! Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!

3) Angels magnify the greatness & majesty of God: Daniel 7:10: A stream of fire issued & came out from before Him; a thousand thousands served Him, & ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him; the court sat in judgment, & the books were opened.

c. Jesus will sit on His glorious throne: He has all power & authority in heaven & on earth! He's coming to judge - **Ezekiel 18:30:** I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD.

- **Psalm 47:8:** God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. [Jesus is God!]

3. The Son Of Man Is King

Matthew 25:34, 40: Then the King will say to those on His right . . . ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them

Psalm 47:6-7: Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! ⁷ For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm! [Jesus is God!]

This is what “Christ” means! Jesus is the anointed King of kings & LORD of lords!

King Jesus will return in glory & separate the righteous from the wicked, so pursue God & His blessedness through love

4. All Nations Will Be Judged By King Jesus

Matthew 25:32: Before Him will be gathered all the nations

- **Isa. 40:15-17:** Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, & are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing & emptiness.

- **Rev. 5:9:** they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll & to open its seals, for you were slain, & by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe & language & people & nation

5. King Jesus Will Separate The Righteous From The Wicked

Matthew 25:32-33: Before Him will be gathered all the nations, & He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left.

- Right hand-place of honor; Sheep more valuable-wool; Shepherds separate sheep/goats (goats need warmth/bite)

- **Ezekiel 34:15-17:** I Myself will be the Shepherd of My sheep, & I Myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶ I will seek the lost, & I will bring back the strayed, & I will bind up the injured, & I will strengthen the weak, & the fat & the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. ¹⁷ As for you, My flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep & sheep, between rams & male goats. [Jesus is God!]

- **Of The Righteous & The Wicked (OBC SOF):** We believe that there is a radical & essential difference between the righteous & the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, & sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence & unbelief are in His sight wicked, & under the curse; & this distinction holds among men both in & after death.

6. King Jesus Will Invite The Righteous To Inherit The Kingdom Of Heaven

Matthew 25:34: Then the King will say to those on His right, “Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

a. The righteous are on the right (place of honor), & they will inherit eternal life – the Kingdom of Heaven:

V. 46: And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

b. How do you become righteous? Imputation: By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone! Inheritance!

- **Rom 4:4-8:** Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. & to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, & whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

c. How do righteous people act? They take action! They love! They serve! Those who are truly justified (counted righteous) by faith alone will do good deeds! True, justifying faith will do good deeds – you will love the brothers!

d. What is love? 2 Cor. 8:1-4, 8: We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia,² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy & their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, & beyond their means, of their own free will,⁴ begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints . . .⁸ I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine.

John Piper: First, it is a work of divine grace: “We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia” (2 Cor 8:1). The generosity of the Macedonians was not of human origin. Even though v. 3 says they gave “of their own accord,” the willingness was a gift of God – a work of grace. You can see this same combination of God’s sovereign grace resulting in man’s willingness in vs. 16–17: “Thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. For he . . . is going to you of his own accord.” God put it in his heart. So he goes of his own accord. The willingness is a gift – a work of divine grace.

- Second, this experience of God’s grace filled the Macedonians with joy: “In a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity” (v. 2). Note that their joy was not owing to the fact that God had prospered them financially. He hadn’t! In “extreme poverty” they had joy. Therefore, the joy was a joy in God—in the experience of His grace.

- Third, their joy in God’s grace overflowed in generosity to meet the needs of others: “Their abundance of joy . . . overflowed in a wealth of generosity” (v. 2). Therefore, the generosity expressed horizontally toward men was an overflow of joy in God’s grace.

- Fourth, the Macedonians begged for the opportunity to sacrifice their meager possessions for the saints in Jerusalem: “Beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints” (8:3–4, NASB). In other words, the way their joy in God overflowed was in the joy of giving. They wanted to give. It was their joy! Now we can give a definition of love that takes God into account and also includes the feelings that should accompany the outward acts of love: Love is the overflow of joy in God that gladly meets the needs of others. [Last Sunday: Love warns people about hell! - George Hickman]

e. The kingdom is prepared for you from the foundation of the world: God loves you with an everlasting love!

- **Ephesians 1:3-5:** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love⁵ he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will . . .

- **Ephesians 2:8-10:** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

f. The righteous are blessed by God the Father: Opposite of cursed; An infinitely satisfied, happiness in God!

g. Jesus calls God “My Father”: Jesus is the Son of Man, & Jesus is the Son of God!

And Jesus did what had to be done so that you might know God as Father too! See the love of God! See the love of Christ! No one has ever loved you like Jesus – in His life, in His death, & in His resurrection! And even now!

Christ Jesus Comes To Judge Every Nation
He’s Son Of Man, The Incarnation
And Comes With Angels In Elation
He’s King Who Reigns, Bow In Prostration
Sits On His Throne Of Glorification
He’s Shepherd, Separates Creation
Goats Will Suffer His Damnation

Sheep He’ll Give His Great Salvation
For He Died, Our Propitiation
Rose Up Alive, His Vindication
By Faith Alone We Have Justification
And Inherit His Kingdom, Our Liberation
For He Is Our All, Our Praise Adoration!

King Jesus will return in glory & separate the righteous from the wicked, so pursue God & His blessedness through love