

FOLLOW ME

The Gospel of Matthew

WEEK 4 - THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS OVERVIEW

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus gives one final teaching in the temple before his road to the cross begins. It is one of the most provocative, humbling, and eye-opening parables in the Bible. In it, Jesus depicts the "Son of Man" sitting on his throne, judging people based on whether or not they served the hungry, thirsty, strange, naked, sick, or in prison. The big twist? According to Jesus, serving or neglecting each of these vulnerable people is equivalent to serving or neglecting the king himself. We would all be well served by searching our heart and asking whether this is the lifestyle we are living!

The King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

Matthew 25:40

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read [Matthew 25:31-46](#).
 - a. What is the main message here?
2. What are some obvious differences between the wicked and the righteous? What might be some surprising similarities between them?
3. How does Jesus describe the criteria for separating "the sheep" and "the goats"? Read [Matthew 25:35-36](#).
4. What does this passage teach about the relationship between faith and works?
5. Read [James 2:14-17](#).
 - a. Who are some of the people or groups we inadvertently ignore or avoid?
6. How do you feel the Holy Spirit is currently leading your life?
7. Discuss some ways we could provide practical love toward vulnerable people.
8. What is one specific action the Holy Spirit is prompting you to take this week?