

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Sermon Road Map

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Matthew 25:31-46

November 25, 2018

Jesus addresses the objections about Judgment Day to encourage us.

The Last Day will be glorious! Heavens split - Jesus appears in glory - at that instant **all** bodies raised reunited with souls - God's people: glorified bodies - All hostile to God: utterly corrupt bodies - God's angels gather every individual: deliver before Jesus, the final Judge - his people on the right, others on left. **Not a day of decision**, but the Day **reality is evident** and publicly **proclaimed**. But.. But.. But... The objections begin. Ours - questions. Others - protests.

Jesus addresses the objections about Judgment Day to encourage us.

❖ But I thought we were saved by grace. We are!

- A quick and 1st impression reading - sounds like saved by works.
 - ♦ *for when I... you, when I... you....*
 - ♦ Look and listen carefully for your encouragement and hope.
- ***Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.***
 - ♦ Pure undeserved gifts: ***blessed - inheritance*** (*God determines heirs*), ***prepared before you existed or acted. All God's doing. Not ours!***
- ***For I was hungry ..., I was thirsty ... I was a stranger... I needed clothes and you clothed me,... I was sick... I was in prison...***
 - ♦ Look how the word ***for*** is used in the following 2 sentences.
 - *The driveway is wet, for it rained last night. for - cause/reason*
 - *It must have rained last the, for the driveway is wet. for - evidence*
 - ♦ Jesus is offering the **evidence** we are the blessed/changed
- Jesus' declaration is just. **His justifying work made us** righteous.
 - ♦ Jesus' declarations are not arbitrary or unjust.
 - ♦ He paid for **everyone's sins**. He declared all reconciled to God.
 - ♦ By grace his good news worked faith - **declared** and **made** righteous
 - ♦ Clearly **Jesus'** work! We say, *Lord, when did we... ?*
 - We're his workmanship. Humbled by his work. All credit is his!

❖ But, what about the humanitarian hearts of unbelievers?

- The cursed: unregenerate - spiritually dead and hostile to God - object: ***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?***
- Maybe it even bothers you when we proclaim this Bible truth: ***All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.*** Romans 3:12 (Psalm 14:1,3; 53:1,3)
 - ♦ We've seen humanitarian care from unbelievers that touches our hearts and even puts us to shame. Care for *the least* - children, poor, refugees.

- Touching stories - fit for a Hallmark special - but misses the real problem.
 - ♦ changing quality of life and giving hope for now - short-term
 - ♦ It masks the cause - the sin-sick problem - contempt for the True God.
 - ♦ You don't have life if you *bite the hand of the Source*. You're dead!
- Made right - right with God = people who *fear, love, and trust God*.
 - ♦ All who are dead in sin - unregenerate - don't/can't/won't serve God.
 - ♦ Heb. 11:6 - ***without faith it is impossible to please God...***
 - ♦ ***The righteous will live by faith.*** Rm 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Habakkuk 2:4
 - ♦ Only God's gift of faith cures sin's "*I'm in charge*" foolishness.
 - ♦ Only through faith's regeneration - hearts/minds of children of God

❖ Jesus' judgment is evidence-based. The proof is how we treat Jesus.

- ***I was hungry and you gave me*** vs. ***I was hungry and you gave me nothing***
 - ♦ Those changed by Jesus' love to **live loving** in Jesus' name.
 - ***We love because he first loved us.*** 1 John 4:19
 - ♦ Contrast: those who don't know Jesus' love - look down on Jesus
 - If you don't treasure Jesus' love, you can't love with his love.
 - ***...the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot.*** Romans 8:7 - EHV
 - We recognize this is our own sin nature.
- To Jesus' regenerate: ***"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*** John 13:34-35
- ♦ As believers we love Jesus and want to show our love. How?
- ♦ Here's how! Love your fellow believer.
 - Attend to - encourage in every situation on the path to glory.
 - Care that expresses God's care, confirming trust in Jesus
 - Not just believers who are friends and family. Pagans do that too.
 - The forgotten, lonely, lowly, strange/unique
 - Jesus stooped down to love us lowly wretches. To rescue & cure us.
- ♦ Be clear. Your attitude & time for fellow believers reveals what you really think of Jesus - how transformed you are by his love.
 - It's not a matter of merit. It is a matter of cure and life.
 - Be encouraged to discover real life serving in Jesus' name. It's rich!
 - Not easy. Not convenient. Not popular.
 - But transformative - enriching - life to the full!

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