



THE KING'S JUDGEMENT (Matthew 25: 31 to 46)

Starter: When did you last hear a sermon on God's judgement?

1. When Christ returns he will be involved in judging the whole world (verses 31 and 32). Why has God the Father given this task to him? In what way would his humanity make him a very fair but exacting Judge? See Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15.
2. The way shepherds separated sheep and goats is used to describe how God in the last judgment will put a difference between people (verse 33). What is it that distinguishes those on God's 'right hand'? What is their 'inheritance' (see 1 Peter 1: 3 to 5)?
3. Why will our acts of kindness and mercy be evidence for or against us at the last (verses 35 and 36)? Why does Jesus say such things are actually done to him (verse 40)? How might this affect our relationships with people?
4. Why are people unaware of how they are actually serving Jesus himself in this way (verse 38)? How important is to ensure that all our Christian activity is marked by humility – see Luke 17:10?
5. The condemnation of those who are not on God's right hand is quite awful (verse 41). Why does Jesus say that the 'eternal fire' was prepared for the devil and his angels (verse 41)? Why is the image of fire used to describe separation from God?
6. Why is there something false about the 'defense' (verse 44) of those who were condemned? Why is it like Lazarus' failure to read and obey the Bible of his day Luke 16:31)?
7. How does this passage make it very clear that accepting Christ as Lord and Saviour necessarily involve us in caring for other people? What are some practical ways by which we can do this personally and as a church? Give some examples.
8. How can we lovingly and yet frankly convey some of these thoughts to those who do not yet believe in God?