**Title:** “Have courage, and be kind” (Matt. 25:31-46) – The Parable of the Sheep & Goats

1. This is *when* it will happen – coming of Jesus (Matt. 25:31)
2. He will be seen. *“in His glory”*

***Rev. 1:7*** – Every eye will see Jesus at the Second Coming.

***Phil. 2:10-11*** – Every knee will bow and every tongue confess Jesus as Lord.

***Matt. 24:27, 30, 37, 39, 44*** – Jesus used the phrase “Son of Man” repeatedly in the Olivet Discourse.

***Num. 23:19*** – “Son of Man” is used to speak of the qualitative difference between God and man.

***Psalm 8:4*** – The Psalmist is awed with God’s attention given to man.

***Dan. 7:13*** – Daniel speaks of the Son of Man in a prophetic sense.

***Isaiah 51:12*** – The Son of Man is not weak, and He does not fade away like the grass.

***Dan. 7:14*** – The Son of Man will rule the nations.

***Phil. 2:7*** – Jesus was one of us.

***Heb. 4:15*** – He understands our weaknesses and brings them to the Father.

1. He will be accompanied. *“angels with Him”*

***Matt. 4:11*** – Angels ministered to Jesus after His temptation.

***Luke 22:43*** – Angels ministered to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

***Luke 2:14*** – To the shepherds, angels announced Jesus’ birth.

***Luke 24:4-7*** – To the disciples, angels announced Jesus’ resurrection.

***Acts 1:10-11*** – Angels announced Jesus’ return.

***1 Thess. 4:16; Rev. 19:14*** – Angels will return with Him to usher in His exaltation as King.

1. He will be enthroned. *“sit on His glorious throne”*

***Daniel 7:14*** – After the Tribulation is concluded, Jesus will set up His perfect 1000 year kingdom.

***Matt. 6:10*** – Jesus taught us to pray for the Kingdom’s arrival.

***Matt. 26:64*** – Jesus’ accusers used His Kingdom teaching against Him.

***Acts 1:6*** – The disciples wanted the Kingdom to come in their lifetime.

1. This is *what* will happen – consequences of actions (Matt. 25:32-34, 41)
2. There will be a separation. *“gathered…He will separate”*

What does “nations” mean?

***Acts 1:8*** – Jesus was aware of geographical designations and how they affected the spread of the Kingdom.

***Matt. 28:19*** – Jesus called His disciples to take His message to the “nations.”

1. There will be an evaluation. *“the King will say…”*

1. There will be an invitation. *“Come…”*

***Isaiah 55:8-9*** – We don’t think like God.

***Rev. 22:17*** – He invites us to live with Him anyway.

***Matt. 22:12-13*** – The invitation is open to all, but only those who have the proper attire will gain entrance.

***John 3:3*** – Only those who are born again will see God’s Kingdom.

1. There will be a condemnation. *“Depart…”*

***John 14:1-3*** – Jesus is preparing a place and will come back for us.

***Rev. 21:16*** – New Jerusalem is spacious and beautiful.

***Luke 2:7*** – Jesus knows what it is like to be rejected due to a lack of space.

***Rev. 1:18; 3:7*** – Jesus is the key to eternity.

***John 14:6*** – Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

***Gen. 7:16*** – God eventually closes the door and revokes the invitation.

***2 Pet. 3:9-10*** – God doesn’t want to send away anyone.

1. This is *who* it will happen to – compassion of people (Matt. 25:35-36, 42-43)
2. They are described in unusual terms. *“sheep and goats” “right and…left”*

Mention some of the facts that separate sheep from goats.

**ACTION STEP:** Show picture of an animal head, and have people decide if it is a sheep or goat.

***Matt. 13:24-30*** – The parable of the wheat and tares illustrates it can be difficult to identify the true God-followers.

***John 10:1-5*** – Jesus knows who his true sheep are. They follow Him.

***Psalm 1:2*** – Sheep feed on God’s Word.

***2 Tim. 4:3*** – Goats feed on whatever is tasty and available.

***2 Cor. 5:17*** – A goat can become a sheep through transformation.

***Gen. 48:17-20*** – Jacob placed his right hand on Ephraim, the younger, making him superior to his older brother, Manasseh.

***Acts 7:56*** – When Steven was dying, he looked up into heaven and saw Jesus standing at the Father’s right hand.

1. They act in unusual ways. *“you gave”*

Jesus did and does what He affirms in others.

***John 6*** – He provided food for 5000+ people.

***John 4*** – He quenched the thirst of the woman at the well.

***Luke 19; Mark 2:14*** – Jesus invited outcasts into His company.

***John 18*** – He removed the shame of an adulterous woman.

***Matt. 11*** – He ministered to John the Baptist in prison.

***1 Kings 17:12-14*** – Resources are limited. It is fearful to use them to meet others’ needs.

***Rev. 13:17*** – People without the Mark of the Beast will not be able to buy basic necessities for their families.

***1 John 3:2*** – We will be like Jesus when we see Him.

1. This is *why* it will happen – confirmation of character (Matt. 25:37-40; 44-46)
2. Their character is righteous. *“the righteous” (vs. 37, 46)*

***Matt. 25:37, 46*** – The sheep are granted access to the Kingdom because they are righteous.

***James 1:27*** – Caring for others’ needs shows your faith is valid.

***1 John 3:16-18*** – To refuse helping someone when you are able to do so makes your faith questionable.

***James 2:14-17*** – True faith acts. It causes us to support others.

1. Their actions are offerings. *“you did it to me” (vs. 40)*

***Matt. 25:34*** – Doing the actions and seeing how it helped was blessing enough.

***Matt. 10:39*** – You benefit yourself the most by giving not keeping.