

RADICAL THE BOOK

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CHAP. 6 HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH

Mt. 25:31-46

Supporting Passages Mk. 10:17-31; Lk. 16:19-31 (rich man & Lazarus); Jms. 2:14-26

In Chapter 24 & 25 of Mt. Jesus answers the disciple's question about the sign of His coming and the end of the age. In chapter 24:32-51 He gives some practical examples of those who will be living at that time. He encourages us to be faithful, watchful and prepared. He concludes by pointing out the establishment of His Kingdom, the judgment of the Jews in 25:1-30 and of the nations in 25:31-46 which are our focal verses for tonight. The passage affirms Jesus is God and Savior and that he alone is worthy to be able to judge the nations. It is only at his return not the tribulation which proceeds His return that the righteous and the unrighteous alike will give an account of their earthly lives and be ushered into eternity. **It is the parable of the sheep and the goats and David says in this chapter that if our lives do not reflect radical compassion for the poor, reason exists to wonder if Christ is really in us.**

READ Pg. 108 "This frightens me..."; Pg. 110 Begin with "Imagine a man who claimsto end of paragraph" **Is someone who** willfully commits acts of immorality a Christian? **What about someone** who willfully ignores the plight of the poor, the sick or the hungry? **READ Pg. 111** begin with "So what is the difference between..." go to end of the paragraph. Today we will discover that we are responsible for our actions.

SHOW VIDEO **If the way we live** our lives is evidence of our faith, what does the way we interact with our possessions say about our commitment to Jesus and His teachings? **What do you** think of when you hear the term "blind spot". **Have you** ever had "BLIND SPOT" IN YOUR Christian walk that God has revealed to you? The challenge becomes then is how we respond when these "blind spots" are revealed to us and for this lesson especially is how we deal with the needy. Evidently this was a blind spot for David. **In what ways does your Christianity affect the world around you?** **READ Mt. 25:31-46** who are the characters in this parable? ***The Judge, the sheep, the goats and the least of these.***

I. **Whether Saved by Grace Through Faith in Christ or Not, All People will Be Held Accountable for Their Earthly Actions**

Mt. 25:31-33

As their shepherd He cares for the people yet He does not hesitate to separate them into two groups, the sheep found to be in His favor and the goats which were cast away from His presence.

Note that wealth is not inherently evil, money and possessions are not necessarily bad. Good gifts from God are intended for our enjoyment and to spread His glory. **READ Lk. 16: 25-26.** In the NT no one promises material

wealth as a reward for obedience. Also no place in the NT are people ever commanded to build majestic places of worship. Instead we are told to be the temple. 1 Cor. 6:19. **READ pg. 118** use excerpts.

QUESTIONS:

1. When you think of God's judgment in the last days what comes to mind?
2. Who is the judge? (Jesus) Who are the ones being judged? (everyone, Christians alike)

II. In is The Nature of a Christ-Follower To Serve Jesus by Meeting the Needs of the Afflicted in the World

Mt. 25:34-40

What is the basis for entrance or separation into the sheep pen? *Caring for Him when he was needy. Why didn't they realize they were helping Him? Because what they were doing just came naturally to them. They were not saved by their actions their actions only followed who they had become through Christ.*

QUESTIONS:

1. Who are the sheep?
2. What evidence did the sheep give that God decided to bless them?
3. Who were the least of these?
4. Why were the sheep unaware that they had provided for Jesus in these ways?
5. How did David say some of the people in his church were meeting the needs of people see pg. 131-133.

III. A Person Who Does NOT Meet the needs of the Afflicted is NOT a Christ Follower

Mt. 25:41-46

The Judge and the King would then pronounce judgment on the goats and they would be sent away from the presence of the Judge and King. What had they done wrong? Had they called Jesus Savior? Yep maybe even Lord so what did they do? *Nothing* They neglected to do what the sheep had done care for the neglected and the needy. **1 Tim. 6:3-10** Pg 115

QUESTIONS:

1. Is it possible for someone who does not follow Christ to do good in he world?
2. Who were the goats? Does the text indicate that they would have been willing to serve Jesus if they had known they were meeting His need?
3. Mk 10:17-24 Why did Jesus ask this man to sell everything he had and give to the poor? Why is it difficult for the rich to live according to the standards of God's kingdom?

