



The Satisfaction of Judgement

Key idea:

Judgement is certain, judgement brings peace, and judgement is transforming. Jesus as the judge is a delight.

Key text:

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ ' "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ “They also will answer, ‘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?’

⁴⁵ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Key points:

1. Judgment is certain, but with Jesus as judge, it can bring peace and transformation.
2. Jesus is the only compassionate judge who became human, suffered, and died for us.
3. Our response to "the least of these" reflects our relationship with Christ.
4. Being a "sheep" versus a "goat" is about knowing, following, and becoming like the Good Shepherd, not about earning salvation.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions that judgment is both the easiest and hardest thing. What do you think this means? How does it apply to your faith journey?
2. How does the idea of Jesus as both King and Judge impact your understanding of God's character?
3. Reflect on the difference between "sheep" and "goat" thinking as described in the sermon. Which do you tend towards, and why?
4. Some people suggest judgement can't both include the certainty of heaven or hell; and bring peace. The sermon says it depends who the judge is. What do you think?
5. The sermon states, To those who don't know Christ, judgment can cause doubt about His goodness, and may even cause believers to doubt their salvation. How would you respond to someone struggling with these ideas?
6. Discuss the concept of "the least of these" as presented in Matthew 25. How can we better recognize and serve Christ by serving the vulnerable people around us?
7. How does the certainty of judgment influence how we should live our daily lives as Christians?

8. What does it mean, "I believe, help my unbelief." How do you personally deal with doubts, and how can we support each other in times of questioning?

Practical Applications:

1. Identify one way you can serve "the least of these" in your community this week. Share your plan with the group and follow up next time.
2. Spend time daily this week meditating on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Take notes about how this impacts your relationship with Him. Pray that God would give you insight into His nature, and strength to serve others.
3. Choose a passage from the sermon (e.g., Matthew 25:31-46) to memorize or study in-depth over the next week.
4. Reflect on areas in your life where you might be thinking like a "goat" rather than a "sheep." Pray for God's guidance in transforming your mindset.
5. Share the gospel message of Christ as judge and savior with someone who doesn't know Him, using insights from this sermon.