**Kingdom Life**

**Matthew 25: 31-46**

**31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ 37Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ 40And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ 41Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ 44Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ 45Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”**

**I. Terms to Know**

**inherit** to receive something special, like a gift or a special place in heaven, from God because you were kind and helpful to others.

**foundation of the world** - "from the beginning of time" or "since the world began”.

**righteous** - right with God: make the right choices; do the right thing.

**accursed** - someone who is considered to be under a curse or condemned by God.

**depart** - to "go away" or "leave" from Jesus, essentially being separated from Him.

**eternal fire** - a place of punishment that lasts forever, where people who didn't help others in need will be sent after they die.

**eternal punishment** - a lasting, never-ending consequence; like a place separated from God's love and goodness forever.

**eternal life** -  living forever with God in a happy place after we die.

**II. Matthew 25:31-46, often called the "Parable of the Sheep and the Goats," describes Jesus' vision of the final judgment where he separates people into two groups: those who actively helped the needy ("sheep") and those who did not ("goats"), essentially signifying that our actions of serving others, particularly the most vulnerable, will determine our eternal fate; the sheep will be welcomed into heaven while the goats will be sent away to punishment.**

**Key points about this passage:**

* **The Judgment Day: This passage is understood as a depiction of the final judgment that will occur when Jesus returns.**
* **Sheep and Goats: The "sheep" represent those who actively showed compassion to the poor, hungry, sick, and imprisoned, while the "goats" represent those who neglected these acts of mercy.**
* **Importance of Service: The central message is that true Christian faith requires not just belief, but also actively serving others in need.**

**III. Questions**

**1. When the Son of Man come in His glory, who will be with Him?**

**2. What did the King say to those on his right hand?**

**3. What did the King say to those who do good deeds?**

**4. What did the King say to those on his left hand?**

**5. Where did he say they would go away into?**