



# 19 Minutes With the Messiah

## The Sheep and the Goats

(Matthew 25:31-46)

Jesus' Body as the Temple  
The Living Water  
New Cloth  
New Wine in Old Wineskins  
The Salt of the Earth  
The Light of the World  
The House Built on the Rock  
The Two Debtors  
The Sower  
The Weeds  
The Growing Seed  
The Mustard Seed  
The Yeast  
The Hidden Treasure  
The Fine Pearl  
The Net  
I AM the Bread of Life  
Becoming Childlike  
The Unmerciful Servant  
I AM the Light of the World  
I AM the Gate  
I AM the Good Shepherd  
The Good Samaritan  
The Friend at Midnight  
The Rich Fool  
The Wise Servant  
The Barren Fig Tree  
The Great Banquet  
The Lost Sheep  
The Lost Coin  
The Lost Son  
The Shrewd Manager  
The Rich Man and Lazarus  
The Unworthy Servants  
I AM the Resurrection and the Life  
The Persistent Widow  
The Pharisee and  
the Tax Collector  
The Workers in the Vineyard  
The Ten Minas  
The Two Sons  
The Wicked Tenants  
The Wedding Feast  
The Fig Tree  
The Householder  
The Ten Virgins  
The Talents  
► The Sheep and the Goats  
A Lesson About Foot Washing  
I AM the Way  
I AM the True Vine  
The Woman in Labor  
I AM the Alpha and the Omega

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus said,] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup>"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. <sup>35</sup>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, <sup>36</sup>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.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' <sup>40</sup>The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

<sup>41</sup>"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. <sup>42</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>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.' <sup>44</sup>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?' <sup>45</sup>He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' <sup>46</sup>Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

1. Using four words from the opening verses of this account (*glory, angels, nations, separate*), describe Jesus' return and the events of the Last Day.
2. Jesus' parable cannot be correctly understood if it is taken out of the context of all of Scripture. What clear and often-stated teachings of the Bible are found in the following passages?

*"[Jesus] is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:11,12).*

*"It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).*

*"We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).*

3. Explain Jesus' statement: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Who are the "least of these"?



Helps: (1) Accompanied by his millions and millions of powerful angels, Jesus will return in all of the glory that is his as the omnipotent God. The sight will be spectacular! All people, those who have lived or are living, will be gathered before Christ and will be judged by him.

(2) Jesus is the world's only Savior. Salvation cannot be earned; it is an undeserved gift from God and becomes ours through Spirit-worked faith in Christ. God's undeserved love for us in Christ inspires and empowers Christians to love God in return and to love and serve others.

(3) The "least of these" are Christians, the brothers and sisters of Christ. Because the Lord dwells with and in believers, what is done for Christians is done for Christ.

(4) Those who assisted a Christian were not only running the risk of being accused or implicated with that Christian but they were also, by their actions, boldly identifying themselves as followers of Christ. Those who do so today face dangers that range from ridicule to death.

(5) Christians, with their new God-given spiritual life, respond naturally to God's love by showing love to their fellow Christians; they may not even be conscious of these good works because they are "natural" to a Christian. Unbelievers, however, do not recognize Christ as Lord and Savior and therefore do not recognize the intimate and mystic union between Christ and Christians.

(6) Those who believe in Jesus, as evidenced by their lives, will be saved. Those who reject Christ as Savior and give evidence of this in their lives will be damned.

(7) In spite of our failings and sins, God declares us righteous through faith in Jesus Christ and promises, as a gift of his grace and not our feeble merit, an inheritance. God's undeserved favor and salvation move and empower us to love and serve him and our fellow Christians.

(8) Responses will vary. A sin of omission is failing to do something that God commands us to do (example, the Fifth Commandment instructs us to help our neighbor in every bodily need). Although they can often be easily excused, these sins are just as serious and damning as sins of commission.

(9) Hell was not prepared for people but "for the devil and his angels" (verse 41). God does indeed want all people to be saved. Some, however, reject God's salvation through unbelief.

(10) Those in hell experience the wages of their sin—a horrible and fiery dying and death—for all eternity. Unbelievers will be separated forever from a gracious God and from any and all happiness. They will bear their guilt and be filled with unending rage and hatred of God.

(11) Answers are numerous and will vary (encouraging all mothers to carry their unborn children to term, speaking out against the sin of abortion, contacting leaders in government regarding the sanctity of life, supporting the unwed mother who carries her child to term, etc.).