

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, January 21, 2024

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 114. “Sheep and Goats” – Matthew 25:31-46

Pastor Phillip M Way

Intro: Jesus continues the Olivet Discourse in Matthew 25, teaching 3 parables that warn us to watch while we wait with expectant hope for His second coming. The third parable transitions into a majestic vision of divine judgment that follows the Parousia.

- I. The Three Parables – Matthew 25
 - A. Girls and Their Lamps, Talents, Sheep and Goats
 - B. Points in Common
 1. In each case, the return of the Lord is sudden and unexpected.
 2. In each case the Lord’s return results in a division between two groups of people
 3. In each case the people who are lost are utterly surprised at their rejection by Christ
- II. The Son of Man – vs. 31-33
 - A. When He Comes in His Glory – Rev. 20:11-15
 1. With all the angels with Him
 2. Then He will sit on His glorious Throne – Dan. 7:9-14
 3. And He will Separate (divide, judge) the nations
 - B. Separating the Nations
 1. Sheep – Goats
 - a. Sheep on the right side
 - b. Goats on the left side
 2. Previous parables
 - a. Sensible girls – Silly girls
 - b. Wheat – Weeds (tares)
- III. His Sheep – vs. 34-40
 - A. Come You Who are Blessed
 1. Come – Matt. 11:28
 2. Blessed – Gk: *eulogeo* – bestow divine favor, on who enjoys God’s good favor
 - B. Inherit the Kingdom – Dan. 7:18
 1. Your Kingdom – Matt. 19:28; Luke 12:32; 1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6; 22:5
 2. Prepared before creation – Matt. 13:10-17; Eph. 1:4
 3. Because of your service rendered to Christ – Isa. 58:7-10
 - a. See vs. 44 – Gk: *diakoneo* – look after, unselfish service and care of others)
 - b. Done not for recognition or reward, but for delight – Quote #1
 4. When did we?
 - a. When you served the smallest of my brothers, you served Me – Quote #2
 - b. Littleness = community of faith members – Matt. 10:42; 18:5-6, 10, 14
 - c. How do you relate to Christ’s followers? – 1 John 3:10-17; John 13:55; 15:12, 17 – Quote #4
 - d. John’s test for true disciples
 - 1) We believe Jesus is God in human flesh – 1 John 2:20-23; 4:2-3, 15; 5:1
 - 2) We obey Christ’s commands – 1 John 2:3-6; 4:4-10; 5:2
 - 3) We love other Christians – 1 John 2:9-11; 3:14; 4:19-21
 - e. The Sympathy of Christ – Acts 9:5 – Quote #3

- IV. The Goats – vs. 41-45
 - A. Go Away, You Who are Cursed (depart, doomed)
 - 1. Previous parables – shut out, thrown out into outer darkness
 - 2. This parable – cursed and cast into eternal punishment
 - B. Inherit the Devil’s Destination – the Lake of Fire – Rev. 19:20; 20:10, 14-15; 21:8
 - 1. You did not... - Quote #5
 - 2. When didn’t we take care of you?
 - 3. When you did not do it to the least of these, you did not do it to Me
- V. Eternal Life or Eternal Punishment – vs. 46 – Daniel 12:2
 - A. Repaid for What You Have Done – Matt. 16:27
 - B. The Books Opened – Rev. 20:12
 - 1. Book of Works – everlasting punishment/torment
 - 2. Book of Life – everlasting life

Quotes

1. “They had not done it for recognition or reward. They did these things for Christ’s sake, because it is the sweetest thing in the world to do anything for Jesus. They delighted to do it because they could not help doing it.” – Charles Spurgeon
2. “What is done to them is done to Him. The final judgment is concerned not with responses to human need in general, but to the need of disciples in particular, and thus indirectly with how people have responded to Jesus Himself in the person of His earthly representatives.” – RT France
3. “Are they hungry? Then Christ is hungry! All down the ages He will perpetually incarnate Himself in the suffering bodies of His tried and afflicted people.” – Charles Spurgeon
4. “True discipleship will pass an examination not because they are trying to pass an examination but because they will love His brothers and sisters and therefore Jesus. Goats will fail because they will not particularly care for Jesus’ brothers and sisters, and thus will be rejecting the Messiah Himself.” – DA Carson
5. “The goats are not condemned for great evil done, but for neglect of doing good. These people occupy the pews of churches and serve on philanthropic boards. When the judgment comes, they are astonished.” – James Boice

Cross References

Revelation 20:11-15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sits upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 Then I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them, and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Daniel 7:9-14

9 "I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His clothing was like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with fire, Its wheels were a burning fire. 10 A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened. 11 Then I kept looking because of the sound of the great boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was killed, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was given to them for an appointed season of time. 13 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And came near before Him. 14 And to Him was given dominion, Glory, and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and men of every tongue Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not be taken away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

Matthew 11:28

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

Daniel 7:18

18 But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.'

Matthew 19:28

28 And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Luke 12:32

32 Do not fear, little flock, for your Father is well pleased to give you the kingdom.

1 Peter 2:9

9 But you are a chosen family, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Revelation 1:6

6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5:10

10 And You made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth.”

Revelation 20:6

6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection. Over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Revelation 22:5

5 And there will no longer be any night, and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them, and they will reign forever and ever.

Matthew 13:10-17

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” 11 And Jesus answered and said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, ‘You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; 15 For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes, Lest they would see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them.’ 16 But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. 17 For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Ephesians 1:4

4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love,

Isaiah 58:7-10

7 Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry And bring the afflicted homeless into the house; When you see the naked, you cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh? 8 Then your light will break out like the dawn, And your recovery will speedily spring forth; And your righteousness will go before you; The glory of Yahweh will be your rear guard. 9 Then you will call, and Yahweh will answer; You will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you remove the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness, 10 And if you offer your soul to the hungry And satisfy the soul of the afflicted, Then your light will rise in darkness And your thick darkness will become like midday.

Matthew 10:42

42 And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”

Matthew 18:5-6, 10, 14

5 And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it is better for him that a heavy millstone be hung around his neck, and that he be drowned in the depth of the sea.

10 “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

14 In this way, it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

1 John 3:10-17

10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifested: everyone who does not do righteousness is not of God, as well as the one who does not love his brother. 11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; 12 not as Cain, who was of the evil one and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother’s were righteous. 13 Do not marvel, brothers, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. The one who does not love abides in death. 15 Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. 16 By this we have known love, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. 17 But whoever has the world’s goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

John 15:12

12 “This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

John 15:17

17 This I command you, that you love one another.

1 John 2:20-23

20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. 21 I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. 22 Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23 Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

1 John 4:2-3

2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

1 John 4:15

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

1 John 5:1

5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the One who gives new birth loves also the one who has been born of Him.

1 John 2:3-6

3 And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, truly in him the love of God has been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

1 John 4:4-10

4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. 5 They are from the world; therefore they speak as from the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are from God. The one who knows God hears us; the one who is not from God does not hear us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. 7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 5:2

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do His commandments.

1 John 2:9-11

9 The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11 But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness blinded his eyes.

1 John 3:14

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. The one who does not love abides in death.

1 John 4:19-21

19 We love, because He first loved us. 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Acts 9:5

5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

Revelation 19:20

20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who did the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

Revelation 20:10

10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 20:14-15

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8

8 But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and sexually immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Daniel 12:2

2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to reproach and everlasting contempt.

Matthew 16:27

27 For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay each one according to his deeds.

Revelation 20:12

12 Then I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.