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The Sheep and the Goats

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 throne in heavenly glory. 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, ‘I tell you the truth, 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.”

In the news are a lot of stories of people who are going above and beyond to raise money, feed hungry children or keep the spirits up of the nation. This is a good thing. When the going got tough their inner strength and character showed. In the passage we see the same.

It would be right for me to point out that we are saved by Grace and not by works. There isn't a Good Works Scorecard that once we have ticked off x number of good works, we are welcomed into the

presence of the Lord. It is because we have had our character changed that we do good works. In the passage we see good character. People doing good not because of the reward that they will get but doing it because of their inner strength and good character. It's not because of what we have done or because of who we are, but because of who He is.

I am reminding you of this truth because when we read this passage it is easy for us to start ticking off our good works, to add another tick on the Good Works Scorecard. It is also easy to look at our scorecard and say that we haven't done enough.

The list isn't exhaustive. There are far more good works than are listed. We can all help another, in our own way. Doing what is needed.

We love because he first loved us. We love because that's the expression of new life, of being born again. Love is living our God's grace.

Ian Benjamin

May the mind of Christ my Saviour
Live in me from day to day,
By His love and pow'r controlling
All I do and say.

May the Word of Christ dwell richly
In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph
Only through His pow'r.

May the peace of Christ my Saviour
Rule my life in every thing,
That I may be calm to comfort
Sick and sorrowing

May the love of Jesus fill me,
As the waters fill the sea;
Him exalting, self abasing,
This is victory.

May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward go.

May His beauty rest upon me
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing only Him.

Wishing you a happy Christmas
FROM ALL AT
Perry Green Chapel

Track the progress of Mary, Joseph and Donkey, visit
peteretteridge.com/virtual-donkeys-diary
VIRTUAL
**Donkey's
Diary...**
1st December
through to
Christmas Day

Due to the current crisis our building is closed BUT..
To watch the Christian Christmas story follow the link below
<https://www.facebook.com/utonbaptist/>



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