



Honoring Christ Our King

Date: November 24, 2024

Text: Matthew 25:31 - 46

BIG IDEA

The last day of the year, New Year's Eve, is full of resolutions. People slow down from the busyness of day-to-day life and take the time to reflect on the past year. Then they assess what they want to do differently and make a commitment to change or improve some aspect of their life in the upcoming year. These resolutions include things such as eating healthier, reading the Bible more regularly, spending more quality time with loved ones, and other positive changes.

It is fitting that the last Sunday of the Christian calendar year is a time for us to do the same. Christ the King Sunday is an opportunity for us to re-center our hearts and lives around Who really matters—our Savior. This is a time for us to assess the parts of our lives or faith that have slipped away from the most important thing and to recommit, rededicate, our lives to our King.

Read the following slowly for a time of contemplation and slowing down.



So just for a moment, let's slow our minds. Close your eyes and take a deep breath. Focus on your breathing in and out. Sit here for just a moment. Envision our King, sitting at the right hand of God in all His glory and majesty. Do you see His throne, the angels ever proclaiming His praise, His still-scarred hands? This is our reason. Hold on to that image as we prepare our hearts to hear from Him today.

Conversation Starter

- Where have you seen Christ in your life this past year? What lessons has He taught you or what experiences has He guided you through?
-

COMMENTARY #1

(Matthew 25:31-33) This week, we begin once again with a parable titled “The Sheep and the Goats.” In this parable, we see a glimpse of Jesus’ authority. First, we see His authority through His command of the host of angels. Then Jesus tells of Him sitting on His throne, showing His status and royalty. Just as a king holds court and has dominion over his kingdom, Christ opens His court with dominion over the whole earth. From there, all the nations are gathered and separated, which further demonstrates that Christ’s dominion covers the whole earth. Jesus also uses



the imagery of sheep and goats in this parable, which He explains further in the verses 24-46.

Discussion Questions

1. What other cross references to Jesus's authority are in the Bible?
 2. Based on verses 31-33, what single words come to mind to describe Jesus's authority?
 3. How would/should you react to Jesus coming in this manner? How should we act today knowing that this will happen in the future?
-

COMMENTARY #2

(Matthew 25:34-46) Last week, we focused on why Jesus judged the sheep and the goats the way He did. Today, we are looking at Jesus's authority over them, and the judgment that He passed onto them.

Jesus begins by blessing the sheep, saying that they are "blessed of My Father" and giving them their inheritance of the kingdom and the gift of eternal life. However, He continues by shunning the



goats, sending them into the fire meant for the enemy and their eternal punishment.

Discussion Questions

1. What other cross references are there to Jesus' judgments in the Bible?
 2. What do these judgments show us about Jesus?
 3. Some skeptics say this punishment does not match the crimes committed. What justification do we have that this is just?
-

GOING DEEPER

Over the past 3 weeks, we have seen Jesus in different ways. In the Parable in the Talents, Jesus represents himself as the master over the servants. In the Parable of the sheep and goats, He represents himself as the Son of Man.

1. What attributes of Christ do you see in each of these representations?

If you had only these two representations to describe Jesus, it would be hard to see Him as the one who humbled Himself from glory to come to earth as a baby, then to later face further



humiliation, abandonment, and death on the cross. But all of these descriptions are accurate descriptions of Jesus.

2. Do we often think of Jesus as our “personalized” Jesus? (meaning that we hand-pick the attributes of Jesus that we like and call them Jesus, rather than seeing Jesus in full)
3. Who is Jesus in full?
4. What is Jesus’ role in your life? Where is His place in your life?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Sermon - [All Hail, Commander Jesus \(John Lovell\)](#)
