

Love Your Neighbor

Description

Matthew 25:31-36.

There are few places in Christian faith that have the potential to create equal parts anticipation and anxiety like our discussions about the second coming of Christ. In the passage we have before us today, King Jesus gathers all the nations before Him and separates “the sheep” from “the goats.”

It is certainly a challenging notion to think about what it is that divides these two groups. Many fiery sermons have been preached that have been centered around frightening people into trying to be one of the sheep rather than one of the goats, sometimes with tragic results for the quality of our faith journey.

While followers of Jesus should never embrace salvation out of fear of punishment by being grouped with the “goats,” it is a certain truth that we should understand the sobering core of this passage: In this text, the people are judged by the King based on how they have loved their neighbors. Like the parable of the ungrateful servant (Matthew 18), in as much as we have received grace, we are called to extend grace to others.

When we examine our actions, what will be our inheritance when we stand before the King?

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