

Sunday School Materials

Christ the King Sunday November 22, 2020

Matthew 25: 31-46 The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

Today is a very special day in the church calendar. It is called Christ the King Sunday and it is the last Sunday before we begin Advent!

In today's Bible verses Jesus is talking with the disciples. He describes how He will come again. This time, He will not come as a humble baby or humble adult. He will come as a king, seated on a throne with angels. He also identifies God as His father. Jesus will gather people from all the nations and divide them into two groups. One group will be what He calls the sheep and the other group He called the goats. The sheep follow His teachings and are highly valued. They will be seated on His right, which is the most important place. The goats do not follow His teachings. He seats this group on His left side. Jesus tells the sheep that whenever they saw someone in need and gave them help such as food, water, clothing, or care it was the same as if they were giving it to Him. He tells the goats that they had seen people who needed help and ignored them. This was the same as refusing to help Him. We are reminded that all people are God's children and that they are worthy of our help. This parable also reminds us that we are held accountable for our actions, or for our lack of actions.

1. What do you know about sheep? What do you know about goats? How do they act? Why are they valuable to shepherds?

2. Can you think of some other parables or Bible verses that use sheep and shepherds to teach us? (examples: Psalm 23, Matthew 18:12-14) Can you think

of any reasons why the Bible uses these images to make a point? (Would people listening to Jesus or hearing Bible stories know about sheep and what shepherds do?).

3. What are ways that you can help others and show your love of God?

4. Can you think of a time when you needed help? Did someone help you? What did they do to help you?

5. Jesus does not tell us when He is coming back. Do you think we need to help others as much as we can, just sometimes, or wait until later?

