

# The Life of Jesus (94)

## The Parable of The Sheep and the Goats (2)



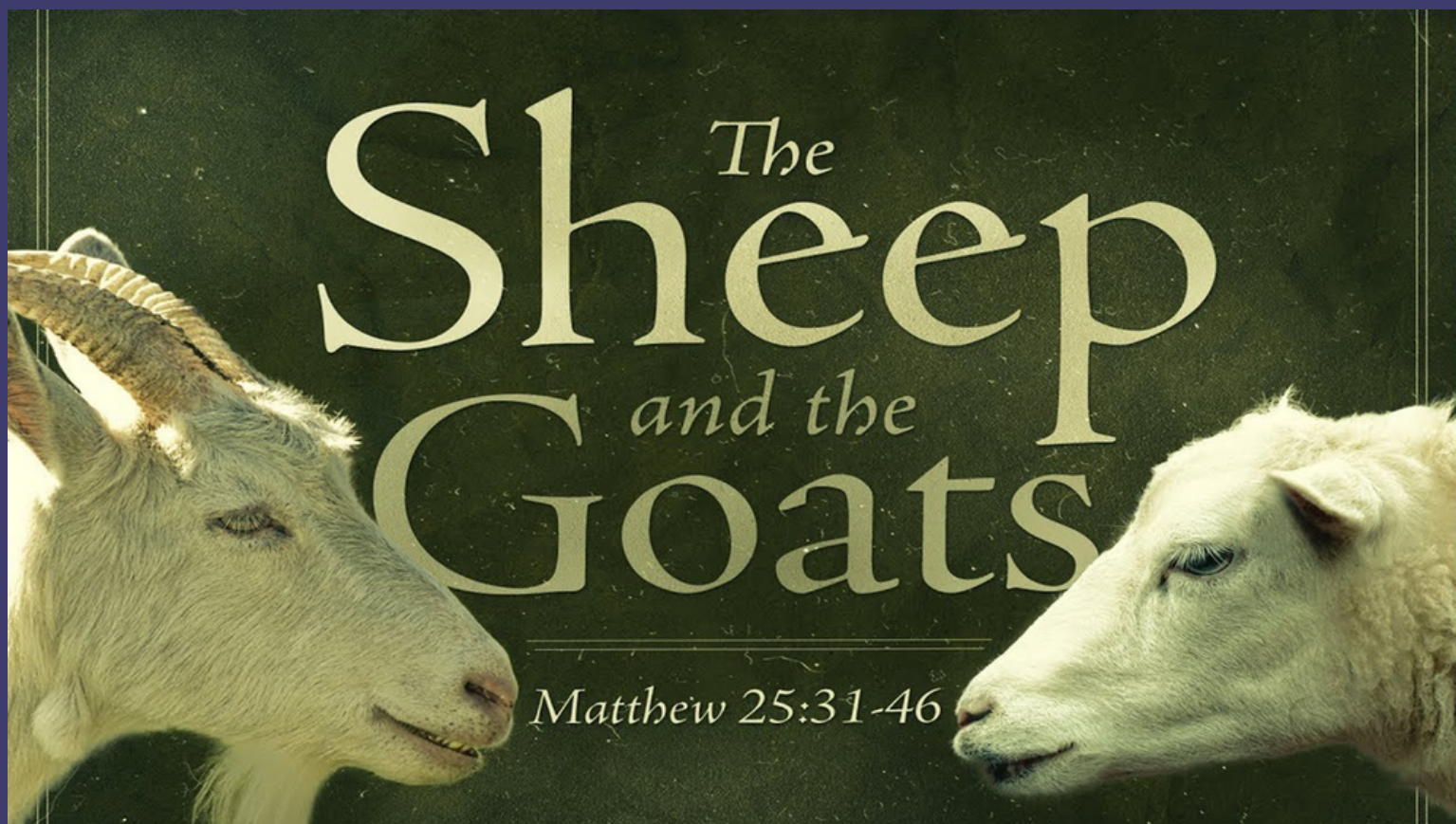
Matthew 25:31-46

# #1 The Rewards Given to the Sheep

We read how the King rewards the sheep on His right and punishes the goats on His left in this story.

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” (Mt 25:34)

Here, we see three blessings that will be given to the sheep. First, they will be allowed to go to the Lord. Second, they’ll be blessed by the heavenly Father. And third, they will take their heavenly inheritance, namely, the kingdom of God.



## #2 The Rewards Given to the Sheep

### 1) Coming to the Lord

First, the sheep will be called to come to the King. For us to go to the Lord and be with Him is the biggest blessing we could possibly have, because that's where all other blessings come from.

Jesus came to the world in human form and gave Himself as the ransom for our sins so that we can be freely forgiven and go to the heavenly Father. Through Jesus Christ, our relationship with God is reconciled.

When we were sinners, we were heading to death, apart from God, but now we can enjoy eternal life in God through Jesus' sacrifice. So, we must believe in Him because He is the only way to the heavenly Father where we find true hope for eternal life.

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (Jn 14:6)

## #3 The Rewards Given to the Sheep

### 1) Coming to the Lord

To go to Jesus Christ and be with Him as children of God is the biggest blessing out of all the blessings we can have on earth. That's the blessing that King David sought throughout his life.

“Whom have I in heaven but you? **And earth has nothing I desire besides you...** As for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.” (Ps 73:25, 28)

“**One thing I ask from the Lord**, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple” (Ps 27:4)

David could have asked for many things but he only sought God all the days of his life. He would never exchange this blessing for anything else because he knew the value of being with the Lord.



## #4 The Rewards Given to the Sheep

### 2) Being Blessed by Our Heavenly Father

Second, the sheep will be recognized as those who deserve to have blessings from the heavenly Father.

**The Bible can be called a book of blessing.** We find the concept of blessing from the first chapter to the last chapter of the Bible.

Genesis 1 says that one of God's purposes in creating human beings was to bless them.

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them...” (Gn 1:27-28)

Likewise, the Bible ends with a scene in which Jesus blesses His people.

“Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.” (Rv 22:7)

So, the Bible is filled with stories in which God blesses people. **The entire Bible story can be summarized into the story of God blessing people.**

## #5 The Rewards Given to the Sheep

### 2) Being Blessed by Our Heavenly Father

However, the concept of blessing in the Bible is different from the concept of blessings people normally think of. What God really wants to give us is eternal blessings, not temporary blessings we only have while living on earth.

A biblical blessing is for us to be considered righteous enough to stand before God.

We were sinners who didn't deserve to stand before Him. But God so loved us that He made a way to forgive our sins and make us righteous before Him.

Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross by His own blood so that those who believe in Him can be forgiven and considered 'righteous' in God's sight.

The best news given to mankind is that God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

## #6 The Rewards Given to the Sheep

### 2) Being Blessed by Our Heavenly Father

This is the biggest blessing that's given to mankind through Jesus Christ. And **this blessing is obtained by faith.**

The apostle Paul called this righteousness “...the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith [in Christ]” (Php 3:9)

Abraham, who is called the ancestor of faith, also received this blessing. And now, this blessing to become righteous by faith is given to all those who believe in Jesus.

**“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.** Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham... So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.” (Gal 3:6–9)

This is the biblical blessing that God really wants to give us. That's the blessing that those who are classified as the sheep will have. They will be blessed by the heavenly Father. Their faith will be proven to be true and authentic enough to receive righteousness to stand before the Lord.

## #7 The Rewards Given to the Sheep

### 3) Inheritance of the Kingdom of God

The last blessing given to the sheep is that they will inherit the kingdom of God.

“Take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” (Mt 25:34)

The Bible repeatedly testifies that the eternal kingdom of God is waiting for us. Our heavenly Father planned to give His kingdom to His children even before the creation of the world and has prepared for it.

Jesus told His disciples that He would go to God to prepare our rooms in His kingdom.

“My Father’s house has many rooms… I am going there to prepare a place for you… And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (Jn 14:2-3)



## #8 The Rewards Given to the Sheep

### 3) Inheritance of the Kingdom of God

Here, what's important is that Jesus called the kingdom of God our 'inheritance.' Jesus didn't say "receive" the kingdom of God, but 'inherit' the kingdom of God.

Inheritance is a legal term that refers to property or goods received after a family member's death. It's much more powerful than just the person giving their possessions to someone because **the right to receive inheritance as legitimate heirs is protected by the law.**

What's important is that the Scriptures use the concept of inheritance to emphasize the certainty of us receiving spiritual blessings from God.

The kingdom of God is not something that He just gives or takes from us because it's something that we will inherit if we're rightful heirs.

## #9 The Rewards Given to the Sheep

### 3) Inheritance of the Kingdom of God

For us to be heirs of the kingdom of God, **we must be children of God**. And to be children of God, we must believe in Jesus Christ.

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (Jn 1:12)

When we believe in Jesus Christ, all His gracious works done on the cross start to take effect in us. Our sins are washed away by His precious blood and we become children of God.

We were “**children of the devil**” (1 Jn 3:10) but now we become children of God. We were “**by nature children of wrath**” (Eph 2:3, ESV) but now we become “dearly loved children” (Eph 5:1).

## #10 The Rewards Given to the Sheep

### 3) Inheritance of the Kingdom of God

What's more, with the blessing of becoming children of God, we also become rightful heirs of the kingdom of God.

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. **Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.**”

**(Rm 8:16-17)**

This is the last blessing given to the sheep on the right side. Through their genuine faith in Christ Jesus, they will be recognized as true children of God, and **as the children of God, they will take their heavenly inheritance**—the kingdom of God—which has been prepared for them since the creation of the world.

That's the promise that we're to focus on while living on earth. We don't live for things of the world. We don't put our hope in worldly things because we know that there are far better and eternal things in the kingdom of God.

# #11 The Rewards Given to the Sheep

## 3) Inheritance of the Kingdom of God

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and **into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade**. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that **the proven genuineness of your faith** – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.” (1Pt 1:3–7)

# Memory Verses

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (Jn 14:6) (1)

“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple” (Ps 27:4) (2)

“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness... those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.” (Gal 3:6–9) (2)

“My Father’s house has many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you... And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” (Jn 14:2–3) (2)

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” (Rm 8:16–17) (2)



## Reflection Questions

1. What are the three blessings that will be given to the sheep on the right? Do you want to have these blessings? What do you think you need to do to get these blessings?
2. Even though the three blessings will ultimately be given on the last day, we can partially experience them by faith even now. Out of the three blessings, what blessing do you want to experience more deeply this week? What can you do about it?