

the love he gives.

Living from his glory as you rely on his forgiveness and the new life he has breathed into us.

Letting this wonderful relationship shape you, determining you very nature, so that you simply live according to who you are in Jesus?

The judge is coming, ready or not. I believe we're ready, but there are many, many, many, many people who still live under the delusion that life is about good verses bad. They live seeking their own goodness, they live as goats doing their own thing rejecting God's love for them in Jesus.

Who is Jesus placing on your heart to pray for that they might come to know him, to know his love for them, that they might find life in him and be recreated in his image, no longer good people, but now Father's loved child in whom he delights.

What a precious new nature we have in Jesus, that we get to live, enjoy, discover.

Who is Jesus placing on your heart to pray for, the outcome is major, it's eternal? I can't think of anyone I know who I want to go to hell, to go into eternity devoid of God's love.

Let us pray.

Jesus open our hearts and minds that we clearly hear from you, because in you we are Father's children. Jesus grow us to maturity in our new nature in you so that we simply seek to live true to who we are, that we live out your nature in every area of life. Free us from the lie of good verses bad and fill us with the Spirit that we live your love to those who don't know you yet. May they come to know you and respond in love to your love of them in Jesus. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

29 September 2013

LISTENING TO GOD—3

Matthew 25:31-33—Here comes the Judge!



Today we start our third series of studies in 'Listening to God'. The text we will be looking at over this time is Matthew 25:31-46. Today we'll focus on the opening verses.

The first thing I hear is that Jesus comes in his glory. This in no way is dependent on me. Jesus will come in his glory, ready or not. Jesus' glory isn't dependent on me, he is glorious by his very nature. The Father glories in his Son. Jesus doesn't depend on me in any way shape or form to be the person he is. Jesus is glorious and he will come in his glory, ready or not.

Then he will judge. We have the image of Jesus dividing the sheep and the goats. The sheep to the right and the goats to the left. Jesus' nature is

glorious, and he recognises the nature of the sheep and the nature of the goats. They don't tell him who he is, or what to do, Jesus does the judging.

Have you noticed that this isn't an all-inclusive message? Jesus comes in his glory and then divides; separates the sheep from the goats.

This simply tells me that I don't get to heaven based on what I want. Jesus is the judge. Some things are acceptable and some are not acceptable. Jesus doesn't say anything goes, he judges, he separates. And the outcome is major.

Jesus is coming ready or not, and the outcome of his judgement is major.

As I reflect on Jesus coming in his glory I'm reminded that Jesus glory is shown in the cross. Here he lives out his trust in Father and his amazing love for us. Jesus gives his life.

Jesus has come in person, giving his life that we might have life, that we might live in his love, being recreated in his love, so that we have a new nature, a nature that reflects his. We are remade in God's image, in the image of Jesus. Jesus' glory shines bright on the cross. His love and trust shine bright on the cross. He has given himself, in person, for each of us.

And now the one who gave his life that we might live in his love returns. Returns to bring this wonderful personal relationship to a climax, where we will share life together person to person.

Jesus returns to take his bride home that they might share their life of love together.

Here is where I see the difference between the sheep and the goats. The sheep are made in the image of their shepherd. The goats seek to do their own thing. The goats want to be made in their own image; self-made people.

Goats want to do their own thing. Goats don't want to be the bride, they want to invite God into their lives, to do their bidding.

Sheep trust the shepherd. They know his voice and follow him. He knows his sheep and gives his life for his sheep. They share life together.

Goats seek their own destiny, according to their will, according to what they want, what they believe is the best for them. Goats live to please themselves. Life revolves around their wants and needs.

Sheep trust and follow the shepherd, living out a personal relationship. They know each other.

The sheep follow the shepherd, and he leads them to pasture, to water, to safety, to life.

When Jesus returns in his glory there will be a separation. And the separation won't be

Goats do their own thing!

determined by me. It won't be based on me being a good bloke. It will be based on Jesus' glory, on Jesus' amazing love, where he has reached out in person that we might share a loving, intimate, personal relationship with him. It will be based on Jesus' glory, where on the cross I have been forgiven, and declared one of Father's children, chosen and marked by his love, delight of his life. (Matt. 3:17) It will be based on Jesus' glory where in his

resurrection I'm raised to new life in him, new life recreated in his image, in the image of God. It will be based on Jesus' glory where the curse of sin is removed and now we live under the grace of our heavenly Father.

When Jesus returns in his glory there will be a separation. The

separation will be determined by our relationship with Jesus. Do I want to live this new relationship that Jesus has created

or do I want to do my own thing.

Will I let Jesus love me, or do I want Jesus to accept me on my terms; after all I'm a good person?

Have you noticed that his is very personal, because love is personal? I don't reject a teaching, I either reject or accept a person; Jesus. God in person seeking to love you, seeking to share his life with you based on his love for you.

The heart of this judgement is found in the heart. Will I let Jesus love me, on his terms, or will I reject his in favour of my will?

The outcome is major; heaven or hell.

Notice hell isn't for the bad people and heaven for the good people. Hell is for those who

want to live outside of God's love for them. The love he has lived out through Jesus. The love he showed by dying for us, so we don't have to die but can have life to the full with him.

Hell is where people go who don't want God's love, but they are full of themselves. They trust in their goodness and don't need, or even want God. But a life devoid of God's love will end up truly hellish.

Who do you want to go to hell?

Hell won't be full of bad people, it will be full of desperate people, spending eternity

regretting giving Jesus a cold shoulder in favour of simply living to meet their felt needs and wants, finding they are devoid of God's love. How do people live and act when they feel unloved, resentful, bitter, insecure, frustrated, unaccepted?

Heaven won't be full of good people, but loved

Sheep know the Shepherd.

people. People loved by God in Christ Jesus; and out of this relationship they find themselves, they find their identity and a new nature, the very nature of God himself. They will love because that's who they are in Jesus.

Notice Jesus divides between sheep and goats; not good and bad. The sheep have a new nature given them by Jesus their good shepherd. They don't run from him, they recognise his voice and gladly follow. The

wonderful bond of love they have with the shepherd shapes their life, their very being.

In Jesus we are re-created in God's image, in the image of Jesus; and Jesus is Father's child, whom he loves and is well pleased with. What a beautiful relationship we get to live in Jesus.

It's not about good verses bad, it goes much, much deeper, it's about being loved, loved by God, or rejecting that love in favour of something dead, or poisonous.

The devil rejected God's love because he thought himself so wonderful that God should simply love him for who he is. And now in his vengeance and bitterness he rages against the children of God because his soul is tormented because of the love he rejected.

Jesus is coming to judge; how are you living? A life shaped by the shepherd, living in