

WK 5 - STORY TIME WITH JESUS

Sorted: How Jesus separates the Real from the Pretenders

July 19-20, 2025; P. Theresa Rosario

- **Focus:** What does Jesus say about judgment and accountability? How do we live knowing that our actions have eternal significance?

Invitation: Encourage honest reflection and call to integrity in how we live out our faith daily.

We see all throughout scripture that God is a God of justice and he will judge his creation. From the very beginning when he created Adam, he judged his own creation and said it was not good for Adam to be alone and, therefore, created him a helpmate, Eve. If you look through scripture you can find key verses in the Bible that point to the reality that we will all face judgment at the end of our life.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 says,

“When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this: fear God and keep his commands, because this is for all humanity. For God will bring every act to judgment, including every hidden thing, whether good or evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 HCSB).

In Corinthians we read about how we will ALL stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil” (2 Corinthians 5:10 HCSB).

These verses are primarily focused on the judgment of believers and is speaking to how we will give an account for our lives and receive rewards or reprimands for our actions. In contrast the judgment for non-believers will determine their eternal destiny. Their rejection to accept Jesus as their Lord and savior will condemn them to eternal punishment in hell. This is why many of us feel convicted to reach our loved ones who do not know

Jesus yet! The scripture that refers to this rejection of Christ is found in John 12:48. Jesus says,

“The one who rejects me and doesn’t receive my sayings has this as his judge: The word I have spoken will judge him on the last day” (John 12:48 HCSB).

So as we can see, there is no questioning whether or not there is a final judgment on the last day. We will be judged! The biggest question today is how would you like to be judged; as a believer or as a non-believer? And then, how will you be judged?

Turn to your neighbor and say, “We will be judged! Choose to believe! This is so important to understand that Jesus made sure to include it in HIS story time! In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus tells a story about the final judgment to help us really get this truth to sink down within us!

The Final Judgment

31 “But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne.

Jesus speaks to the imagery we see in Revelations 20:11 which we will come back to later. But for now its this idea that the Son of Man, Jesus, will come back in all of his glory at the appointed time, which by the way, we don’t know the exact time so stay tune for that message next week. He will bring all the warring angels with him, and be seated on his throne! Then if we continue to read at verse 32,

32 All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

Three things I want to point out here:

1. ALL the nations will be gathered (USA, Russia, China, Israel...); that means ALL people will be standing there before this mighty King, the king of kings, sitting on His Glorious throne.

2. Everybody say “HIS PRESENCE!” They are standing in His presence. Imagine what that feels like. What I want to point out to us here is we don’t truly have to imagine what it would feel like? Why? Because we get to stand in HIS PRESENCE right now! We can become very familiar with HIM and the power of HIS presence. So get to know him now, don’t wait until your standing there to be judged. Let Jesus search you daily and help you change now, before the last day. The time is NOW!
3. And lastly, we will be sorted. The Lord will separate his obedient followers from pretenders and unbelievers. You’re either a sheep or a goat.

Now this imagery of believers being sheep is not unfamiliar to us. Jesus says, He is the great Shepherd and the sheep know the shepherds voice. So I will not expand on this imagery of sheep.

Goats, however, can be seen positively or negatively. Positively, Goats were used as a sacrificial animals, provide practical resources such as milk, clothing, meat, and, figuratively, represent prosperity and provision. However, here we see it being used in a negative connotation. As we have been learning, Jesus does this often during Story Time. His kingdom is often upside down or stands opposed to what one would be familiar with in this world. We will see as we continue to read this parable that the goat represents those who will be eternally punished. So let’s keep reading at verse 34 to understand the difference between sheep and goat and what this whole sorting is all about:

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world.

Turn to your neighbor and say, the sheep have an inheritance. Turn to your other neighbor and say, I want to be in the sheep line collecting my inheritance.

Jesus tells them of this incredible promise and then gives them what evidence he looks for to determine are the true sheep in verses 35-36,

35 For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. 36 I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

Then he clarifies even further in verse 37,

37 "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

And then He drops the most shocking truth which still challenges all of us today.

40 "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

Ultimately, Jesus is saying the real evidence of our belief is the way we act. Turn to your neighbor and say, "no be one aka." Turn to your other neighbor and say, "we gotta ak like Jesus." We need to treat every person we encounter as if they were Jesus. You mean even the idiot that gets on your last bit of nerves! YES! How we treat others, even our enemies, and what we do for people who are in need determines what we believe on this inside of us!

You may be thinking woah... I thought I am saved by grace not by my works or my action. And to that I say yes you are. You cannot work your way into eternal life. You receive that simply by faith in a Jesus. However, James stresses how ridiculous that it is to believe a saving faith can exist simply as an inward commitment without any outward manifestation. If you have a good heart then good will come out of you, yes? Well then it stands to reason, that if you have the Holy Spirit within you, Jesus within you, then the life of Jesus will come out of you. Let's read that passage in James 2:18-19,

“But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without works and I will show you faith by my works. You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons. Believe - and they shudder”(James 2:18-19 HCSB).

Even demons believe in God but they don't follow him, they choose to live there own way. Jesus is saying, my true sheep follow. They here my voice and obey. They live according to what I say is the righteous way.

Therefore, Grace calls for RESPONSE and RESPONSIBILITY!

Let's continue in the story at verse 41. This is were it gets heavy.

41 “Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. 42 For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink.43 I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.’

44 “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’ 45 “And he will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’

Woah.. if you are in the goat line, you are likened to the devil and his demons! You are destined for “the eternal fire” - eternal damnation in Hell.

Now don't freak out. You may be wondering what about me? Am I destined to eternal damnation. I don't always treat everyone like Jesus. Don't jump the gun. Don't forget we have grace! Jesus isn't speaking to the person who is imperfect, makes mistakes, and is BEING transformed. He is not talking to the person who wants to be like Jesus and is believing by faith the Christ will complete the work he began in them when they said yes Him and HIS free gift of grace.

I believe the key word is. This passage is REFUSED.

He's distinguishing that person who REFUSED to help the least of these and likely REFUSES to be transformed and changed into the image and likeness of Christ! Jesus is making his point very clear in verse 46,

46 “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

Ultimately, This parable illustrates metaphorically the truth that God knows who belongs to Him. His true believers will have evidence, or bear fruit in their life. Everyone else are pretenders or haters. Turn to your neighbor and say don't be a pretender. Turn to your other neighbor and say don't be a hater!

It has direct correlation to what Matthew writes earlier in Matthew 10:40-42,

40 “The one who welcomes you welcomes Me, and the one who welcomes Me welcomes Him who sent Me. 41 Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward. And anyone who welcomes a righteous person because he's righteous will receive a righteous person's reward. 42 And whoever gives just a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple—I assure you: He will never lose his reward!”

To respond to Jesus' love is to obey His commands. To obey His commands is to reach out to others in love. There are no excuses for one to neglect those who have deep needs, and we cannot hand over this responsibility to the church or government. The good news is that we will never lose our reward.

Isaiah makes it clear what the Lord wants from us - a heart yielded to Him longing to surrender and live in obedience to Him. Isaiah 58:7-8 says,

“I want you to share your food with the hungry and to welcome the poor wanderer into your homes. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need our help. If you

do these things, your salvation will come like the dawn. Yes, your healing will come quickly. your godliness will lead you forward, and the gory of the Lord will protect you form behind” (Isaiah 58:7-8 NLT).

We can't be saved without faith in Christ, but our faith lacks sincerity if it doesn't reach out to others. You can have all the spiritual disciplines down (fasting, bible study, etc), which is good for growing you and your relationship with Jesus, but what the Lord truly wants is for your growth in him to go beyond yourself and produce outward fruit towards others of kindness, charity, justice, and generosity.

Brothers and sisters, we will be held accountable by God for our actions or even the lack of action. Ultimately, we will be responsible and judge for our choices! So choose well. And for those of us that are called to teach and preach the word of God will be judged and held to a higher standard of accountability. Trust me, I'm not just talking to you, I'm talking to myself.

SCRIPTURE - not in keynote

The good news, Romans 1:18-23 tells us we are only held accountable for what we know. The bad news is that after today, you know so you will be held accountable! The reality of Judgment should motivate us to greater evangelism and service unto the Lord. However, It must be motivated by love. Our motivation should not be, I'm just saving my own Okole.

Our understanding of the parable of Judgment should encourage us to live a life of perseverance and faithfulness motivated by love and gratefulness. And finally, it should push us into the realm of what may feel uncomfortable in order to see more people be saved from the penalty of death which is an eternal damnation. We can choose to do our part in helping others come to Christ and accept His gift of eternal life through a life lived in surrender and obedience to Him as Lord and Savior.

Close in prayer

OG QUESTIONS:

- 1. What does your current life say about what you truly believe? Jesus said the way we treat others is evidence of whether we belong to Him. Looking at your everyday actions—especially toward “the least of these”—what would others say you believe about Jesus, grace, and eternity? Follow-up: In what areas do you feel the Holy Spirit is calling you to grow in obedience?**
- 2. How does knowing we will be judged by Jesus challenge or change the way you live? Judgment can feel scary, but Jesus presents it as a reality meant to call us into transformation. What habits, relationships, or patterns might need to shift in your life as a result of this truth? Follow-up: Are you living more like a sheep (obedient, surrendered) or a goat (resistant, refusing)?**
- 3. Who in your life needs to experience the love of Jesus through your actions? We’ve been called to respond to God’s grace with love and compassion for others. Is there someone God is putting on your heart—a person, group, or even a family member—you’re being asked to serve, forgive, or reach out to? Follow-up: What’s one practical step you can take this week to reflect Jesus to them?**