



LIVING DIFFERENTLY

SERMON #8 DISCUSSION GUIDE: Week of October 31, 2021

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Big Idea: God's righteous love calls for righteous action! Or, just because we don't do anything wrong, doesn't mean we do anything right.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does this scripture teach us about Christian responsibility?
2. How can you live differently than the culture around you so others take notice? Do you currently look more like the world or does your life point to Christ?
3. Mathew 25:31-46 tells us that it is not just about what we do wrong but also what we don't do. Just because we don't do anything wrong, doesn't mean we do anything right. Are you caring for those who cross your path and need help? Are you loving and serving those in the body of Christ?
4. Both "What we do and what we don't do matters." Which one do you tend to focus on more?
5. How are you going to turn what you've learned in this series into a lifestyle? What does that look like for you?

Action Steps:

1. Living differently is a lifestyle. It is a choice. It's showing the love of Jesus through our actions.
2. Do you genuinely care about others because God does? What can you change?
3. Do people know you by your love? What can you change?

Living Differently Sermon Content Review:

Sheep go to heaven, and goats go to hell. That is what the song by a band named Cake says. It's a weird chorus and we would be tempted to say it's just something a weird named band came up with, but what we find is this an idea in the scripture. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells his disciples that one day God will separate the people of this world into two groups: sheep and goats. Those who followed his commandments will go to be in heaven and those who don't will be cast away. It's hard to fathom.

We as a church enjoy the idea of grace and love. We see Jesus on the cross and it reminds us of a father in heaven who loves us enough to send his son to die for our sins. Yet, the same God who sent his son to die for our sins says that if we do nothing with that sacrifice then we never really knew him, and he says that means we will be separated from him for eternity.

We are not called to take our faith and let it sit in our minds. It's tempting to regularly think about how we are better than other people and how we know the "true" way to Jesus. We think our beliefs and our theology will save us. But Jesus makes it clear when he says "For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' 45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Matthew 25:42-26

Gospel: Jesus chose to take the cross for all of us and he did so as a response to the faithfulness he had in his Father. As a result, he calls all of us to act in the way we treat others. The way we care for those are the least of these. Jesus wasn't afraid to let actions speak as loud as his words. Are you?

REFERENCE: <https://national.cc/media/neighbor>

Notes: