



# JESUS: KING AND JUDGE



## Gospel Life Communities Study Guide

Matt. 25:31-46

*Jesus: Your King and Judge*

Welcome to the Fall 2024 GLC Season!

We hope the Lord is blessing, challenging, and encouraging you through this sermon series thus far.

This season, we will be in Matthew chapters 22-25, which covers Jesus's interactions with his disciples and the religious leaders of the day, in the last week before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

Our weekly studies will have four parts, following the four categories that we've set for GLC's, and then end with prayer.

### exploring

**We will explore God's word together, looking at the actual words of the passage each week.**

### digging

**We will dig deeper into the word, discussing the context and meaning of the passage.**

### growing

**We will discuss how the passage is applied to our own lives.**

### going

**We will discuss how the passage informs, challenges, and encourages our gospel witness.**



## exploring

Matthew 25:31-46 ESV

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 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 foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 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.”

- Read Matthew 25:31-46 out loud as a group.
- What questions about this passage come to mind?



## digging

- Read Ezekiel 34:11-24. What similarities and differences do you see?
- In the context of Matthew 24 & 25, who do you believe “the least of these my brothers” represents? Discuss.
- In the previous two parables Jesus was describing what the Kingdom of God was like. He gave the image of virgins preparing for the bride groom (25:1-13), and servants who were given talents to invest (25:14-30). In our passage of the final judgement, Jesus contrasts those who served “my brothers” and those who did not. Why did he do this?
- Based on this passage, how will people be judge as blessed (vs. 34), or cursed (Vs. 41)?

## growing

- Jesus is explaining these truths to his disciples within days of his arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection. He knew the trials they would experience once they started to spread the gospel. Do you think these words encouraged them as they went? Discuss.
- Can you think of other passages that speak directly to the issue of accepting the gospel and gospel messengers? (Need help? See Matthew 10:5-15, 11:20-24, Galatians 1:6-9)

## going

- In the sermon, Pastor Paul cautioned us in how we speak of/treat people who are messengers of the gospel, whether you always agree with them or not. In our day, we have an abundance of pastors/authors/teachers at our disposal, especially online. How do Jesus's words in this passage inform our speech about these messengers?
- In our day, what are some ways we can support and encourage the people who spread the gospel both locally and globally?