

## Sermon Study Questions

January 1, 2023

1. Read Matthew 25:31-46
2. According to what we've seen in Matthew ch.24-25 Jesus speaks of His return and the end of the age as happening concurrently, as His return ushers in the end of the age along with the final judgment. Does this differ from how you may have previously thought about the return of Christ? If so, how, and what are the implications for understanding the return of Christ in this way?
3. The simple reading of this passage seems to teach that salvation is by works, as the only thing that is mentioned as differentiating the sheep (those blessed of the Father) and the goats (those cursed of the Father) is what they did or didn't do. On what basis can you say Jesus is definitely *not* teaching that salvation is by works?
4. Why does Jesus point to works as being that which the "King" will point to to make His determination as to where an individual will spend eternity in the final judgment?
5. What is meant by saying not all faith is saving faith? Where else has Jesus taught this in Matthew's gospel? Read James 2:14-26 and discuss if meeting with a group.
6. What is the relationship between saving faith and works?
7. How would you define good works in light of this, and other, passages?
8. Who is Jesus referring to when He says, "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."? What is the implication of this?
9. Practically speaking, what good works towards God's people can you do to give greater expression to your faith? Be specific, and then by God's grace and in the power of His Spirit put your faith into action by doing those good works.
10. Pray!