

# The Sheep and The Goats

## Matthew 25:31-46

### Into the Lesson:

Matthew 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory..."

In anticipation of the above, spend some time reading Revelation 19:11-16.

Contrast this picture of Jesus as King with the one we read about in Mark 11:1-11.

How do these two images set the stage for what will be Jesus' harshest words (chapters 21-25)?

### Into the Word:

For those of us well separated from "farm life" you might want to reread Psalm 23 for a picture of what our Shepherd does for us sheep.

How does verse 32 indicate this is a universal "gathering"?

How do vv. 35-36 hearken back to the point from last week's message, "...we have never really loved, we have never really met need until it has cost us, and it has inconvenienced us..."

From Sam's sermon, review the characteristics of sheep and goats:

Sheep are humble-----Goats are proud.  
Sheep obey-----Goats do it their own way.  
Sheep think of others -----Goats think of themselves.  
Sheep are needy----- Goats don't need help.

What is another synonym for the "sheep" found in verse 37?

How does this answer the question, "what is the reason the sheep are identified as sheep?"

Do you get the sense that they are led by simple acts of spontaneous obedience?

### Into Life:

How can Romans 12:3&16 provide us with a way to make sure our "sheepness" doesn't affect our ability to serve?

It's easy to draw some modern-day parallels to the "least of these" in this parable, but who are some of those who may slip through the cracks in our present situation?

What are some examples of those who don't fit in the socio-economic boundaries of "the least of these"?

Is it possible there are those who are living a seemingly comfortable life yet are still beaten down by their circumstances?

How can we minister to those in our midst who are hurting but keep on their "church mask" so others won't know that they don't have together like everyone else?

What part does prayer play in building relationships with our "forever family"?

How can organizations like the **Loveland Resource Center** and the **Community Kitchen** provide us with ministry opportunities?

How about the very smallest of the "least of these" and those faced with unplanned pregnancy through ministries like **Life Choices**?

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40