

## Sermon Outline

“Paring the Flock”

Matthew 25:31-46

- I. Sheep and goats (specifically, “kids”)  
Agricultural metaphorical language Cf. Ezek 34:17-24  
Sheep set apart from “kids” (only here and Lk 15:29)  
Sheep in are Matt consistently tied to Israel  
9:26; 10:6; 12:11; 15:24; 18:12; 26:31 (cf. Zech 13:7)
- II. The Son of Man seated in glory on his throne v. 31  
The same imagery as in 24:30-31 (cf. 26:64; 23:39)  
Imagery drawn from Dan 7:9-14 (cf. Dan 9:24-27)  
It refers to Jesus’ enthronement at the ascension (Heb 1:3; 10:12)  
**Not** to the final judgment day at the Second Coming.  
Jesus affirms this happening in the first century 16:27-28  
“Holy angels with him” – messengers, not celestial beings  
24:31; Rev 20:1 (Jesus). (See 19:28 w/ Lk 12:32)  
Echo of Dan 7:10; Zech 14:5
- III. All nations gathered; sheep and kids separated v. 32-33  
Nations gathered, individuals separated (key pronoun)  
The “gathering” is parallel to 24:31  
“Nations” includes Israel - 24:9, 14; 28:19; Acts 1:8
- IV. The criterion of separation - deeds vv. 34-46 (see Is 58:7, 10)  
This echoes 24:46 and 25:21, 23 in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> parables.  
Deeds are done to the “smallest brothers & sisters” vv. 40, 45  
Mt 12:46-50 (cf. 28:10); 10:42; 18:6, 10, 14 (cf. vv. 2-5)  
Both the righteous & unrighteous deny this understanding  
vv. 37-39; 44  
Their actions flow from faith in Christ (or lack of it)  
Practice of “true religion” Jas 1:27 (cf. 16:23-27)
- V. Inheriting the Kingdom v. 34  
The faithful are predestined to inherit the Kingdom  
*Compare* Eph 1:4 and Mt 20:23  
IPet 2:9 (cf. 21:43); ICor 4:8; Eph 2:6; Rev 1:5-6; 5:10; 20:6; 22:5  
  
As kings & priests reigning with Jesus, we are called to exercise kindness and hospitality, showing forth his glory. This flows naturally from our faith. We do not hide his light under a basket  
Mt 5:14-15