

FINDING PEACE IN THE MOMENT OF JUDGMENT

MAY 17 • MATTHEW 25:31-46

DISCUSSING GOD'S WORD

1. What will this great day of judgment be like according to verses 31 and 32? How will Jesus appear? Who else will come with Him? How many of the nations will have to stand before Him on that day?
2. According to this judgment scene, what are the distinguishing marks of the righteous, those who are blessed by the Father (see vv 35-40)? Correspondingly, what about the "cursed" ones? What marks their lives according to the King in His judgment (vv 42-45)?
3. All of humanity will be divided into how many groups? What does Jesus describe as the final destination for these groups?

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

1. How should we as believers think about ourselves in light of the coming judgment? 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, John 5:24, and 2 Corinthians 5:10 are a few passages to consider.
2. How should this reality of a coming judgment cause us to interact with unbelievers around us? What about unreached nations with little or no access to the gospel?
3. How can verse 40 inspire us to seemingly insignificant acts of kindness and service to those around us? Who are the "least of these" God would have you pursue in love?

PRAYING GOD'S WORD

1. God help us to trust in the good news of your justifying love in Jesus and help us to long for His appearing.
2. Father, help us as individuals and as a church to live this day in such a way that we will not have anything to be ashamed of on that great day.
3. Lord of the harvest, please send laborers into your harvest field, both locally, and to the ends of the earth, to call all to turn to Christ and be saved.