

Reflection Questions: Matthew 25:31-46

For the message, "Adorning the Gospel with Our Lives" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on July 4, 2021

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Matthew 25:31-46

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,[a] 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."

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- What initial questions or thoughts arise as you reflect on what it is saying? What do you find most challenging, convicting, encouraging?
- How does the fact that *Jesus takes the way we minister to others very personally* inform your life? How has it impacted you so far? What might be some ways you could grow in this area, especially as it relates to the most vulnerable in our city, society, world?
- Jesus' disciple, the Apostle Paul, wrote, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). How might those words, "Let us do good to everyone" serve as a banner over your life informing your calling as (1) a human, and (2) as a follower of Jesus?

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- The Apostle Paul wrote to Titus saying, "...our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are zealous for good works" (Titus 2:13-14). How does this passage help us to understand the kind of church we want MHC to be? How is this text inviting us to participate in a community that exists for something greater than our own wants and needs?
- Hebrews 10:24 says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...." What are some ways that we can remind one another and encourage one another towards deeper engagement with our world since Jesus takes it personally?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- Imagine if every follower of Jesus in our city was engaged with the brokenness of our community, seeking to address it and bring healing and hope to the most vulnerable. What kind of impact do you think we could make? What sorts of issues could be addressed?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?