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**SERIES: Matthew (The King, His Kingdom And Me)**

**TITLE: Program 45 – The Sheep And The Goats**

**FRIDAY**

**OPEN**

You've probably heard that phrase about separating the sheep from the goats. Do you know where it came from? It came from the Word of God. It came from Jesus' final discourse as He told about the end of the age. He told about a time when **"...He [would] sit on His glorious throne [and gather] all the nations...before Him [and then] separate them...as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."** (Matthew 25:31-32) And what does that have to do with you? We'll see today as we look at the Book.

**PART ONE**

Jesus is bringing His final discourse in the gospel of Matthew to a close, and as He brings it to a close, I want to remind you of what He's told them. He has told them that there is a time of tribulation coming for them. There is a time when they are going to see **"...The Abomination of Desolation... standing in the holy place..."** and they are to flee. (Matthew 24:15)

[Because there will be a persecution such as has never been nor will ever be again.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 24:16, 21) This is the persecution, as I told you and taught you, that is mentioned in Daniel, and it's mentioned in Joel, and then it's mentioned again in the gospel of Mark. (See Mark 13:24-27) And it's mentioned again in Matthew chapter 24. So we know that there's going to be a great persecution of the Jews. We know that "[Jesus] came [to] His own..., His "own" were the Jews, "...and His own received Him not. But..., it says, "**But as many as received Him, to them [He gave the] power to become the sons of God....**" (John 1:11-12, KJV) Now as He brings this discourse to a close, He is once again, pointing them to the time [when the Son of Man will come and sit on His glorious throne.] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 25:31) And He's going to tell us what is going to happen in that day. It's a very, very important passage, but you need to understand it within its context, because remember context is king. It's context that determines the way that we interpret a passage, and so in Matthew chapter 25, in verse 31 He says, "**But when the Son of Man come in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. (Matthew 25:31)**" "[And] **all the nations will be gathered [together] before Him; and He will separate them...as the...sheep [are separated] from the goats.**" (Matthew 25:32) This was the job of the shepherd. Why? Because when the shepherd took the sheep out, oftentimes the goats would go with them. Now it is a time of reward. Now it is a time of judgment, because "**...When the Son of Man comes...on His glorious throne...,**" then the nations have to be judged according to their treatment to the Jews. (Matthew 25:31) Finally there is a day of reckoning. Before we look at this any more, I want to take us to the book of Joel, and I want to show you a parallel passage. In Joel chapter 3, in that final chapter it says, "**Hasten...,**" verse 11, "**...and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves there. Bring down, O Lord, Your mighty ones. Let the nations be aroused and come...to the valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I**

**will sit to judge....” (Joel 3:11-12)** The “valley of Jehoshaphat” is the same as the Kidron Valley. It’s the valley that runs between the Mount of Olives and the Temple Mount, and He says, **“...I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; the vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision...!” (Joel 3:12b-14)** He is going to sit and He is going to judge the nations. Now when we come to Matthew chapter 25, it’s when He sits on **“...His glorious throne.” (Matthew 25:31)** And all those nations are gathered before Him, and as they’re gathered before Him, it says in verse 33, **“...He will put the sheep on His right...,”** the right-hand side of a throne was the side of power, **“...and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, [and] inherit the kingdom prepared for you [before] the foundation of the world. (Matthew 25:33-34)** Now you want to mark the word “kingdom,” in the same way we’ve been marking it throughout the gospel of Matthew. But you also want to mark “from the foundation of the world,” because once again you see the Sovereignty of God in salvation. You see that God, in His omniscience knows those who have been chosen before the foundation of the world. So the sheep are on the right, and it’s the sheep that are going to inherit the kingdom of God. In verse 35 He says, **“...I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me...,”** You did this to Me. You sheep did this to Me. **“...Then the righteous will answer...‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink?’ And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison, and come to You?’” (Matthew 25:37-39)** When did we do this Lord? **“[And] the King will answer and say to them,**

**‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even [to] the least of them, you did it to Me.’” (Matthew 25:40)**

And why can they not buy food? Because those last three and a half years before the coming of the Son of Man, when [there is going to be a tribulation such as has never been], those people are going to suffer. (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 24:21) And they’re going to suffer because they’re not going to take what we call the **“...mark of the beast...” (Revelation 16:2)** Let me take you to Revelation chapter 13, just for a bit of review, so that you understand what is going to happen during that time. In Revelation chapter 13, we know that he is going to have power for 42 months, for three and a half years, and it’s talking about the beast. It says, **“There was given to him...,”** in verse 5, **“...a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months [that] was given to him.” (Revelation 13:5)** It was given to who we know to be the “little horn” of Daniel chapter 7. (See Daniel 7:9) We know it was given to the one that breaks the covenant in Daniel chapter 9. (See Daniel 9:27) We know that it’s the one that walks into the holy of holies and declares himself to be God. It is the king that is described at the end of Daniel chapter 11. (See Daniel 11:36) It is the one that is described in Daniel chapter 12. (See Daniel 12:11) This is the one that is called the “Antichrist,” the “man of lawlessness.” (See 2 Thessalonians 2:3) And it says, **“And he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. [And] it was also given to him to make war with the saints...,”** with the holy ones, with the ones that are set aside, with the ones that are going to be persecuted, with the ones that are going to be in prison, with the ones that are going to be mistreated, hungry, thirsty, naked. **(Revelation 13:6-7)** And he goes on to say, **“...[He makes] war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.” (Revelation 13:7)** You see, it is a day when once again, Jesus divides the

world. There are those that are for Him and there are those that are against Him. The line is drawn. It's the clash of the kingdom. It's the clash of the kingdom of darkness verses the kingdom of light, and in that clash of the kingdoms what we find is this Antichrist is like a catalyst and he's drawing all the enemies of God to him, and he then rules over them. And it says, "[And] **all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of [the] life of the Lamb [ha-] who has been slain.**" (Revelation 13:8) In other words, all of those that do not belong to God, who from the foundation of the world have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, these are the enemies. These are the ones that go and they bow the knees and they worship this one, this Antichrist, and the only way that people are going to be able to buy and sell is according to whether they take the mark of the beast. (See Revelation 13:17) And so it says, in verse 14, and this is the false prophet, "**And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given [to] him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast...**" who was, "**who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak [out] and cause as many as [those who] do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.**" (Revelation 13:14-15) So you can imagine people will be fleeing, and you can imagine that that faithful remnant that comes through the fire, that stands fast, who is going to believe and recognize that Yeshua is the Messiah, they're going to stand fast. Well who's going to help them? Who's going to clothe them? Who's going to feed them? Who's going to give them something to drink? It is the sheep that are on the right. It is the sheep who believe and are followers of God and who honor God, who are not caught up in the rest of the nation, and these are the ones that are going to be blessed. And it talks about the false prophet: "**And he causes all, the small and the great, and**

the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or [in] their forehead, and...,” it says, “...he provides that no one will be able to buy or...sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. [And] here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the best, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six-hundred and sixty-six...,” 6-6-6. (**Revelation 13:16-18**) These, these are the ones that give their allegiance to the Antichrist, that give their allegiance to the “man of lawlessness,” and these are the ones that God is going to judge.

## **PART TWO**

We’re talking about [that time when the King will come and sit on His glorious throne and gather all the nations before Him, and then He will separate the sheep from the goats even as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. So we’ve looked at the sheep, what about the goats? In verse 41 it says, “**Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’**” (**Matthew 25:41**) It was not prepared for man, it was prepared for the Devil. It was prepared for his angels. It was prepared for the one who rose up in rebellion against him. It was prepared for the anointed cherub who decided he would be like God and he would exalt his throne above God. (See Ezekiel 28:14; Isaiah 14:13) It was prepared for the serpent, the Devil of old, Satan, who came into the garden and who challenged God, and who said, “**...Yea, hath God said....**” (**Genesis 3:1, KJV**) [God prepared the lake of eternal fire for them, and for the angels that chose to follow him in his rebellion. He did not prepare it for man], and yet man sided with the Devil, and now what we have the judgment of the nations. (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 25:41) The Righteous One has come. The Righteous One is sitting on His glorious throne, and the Righteous One, now, is going to tell those who are going to inherit eternal damnation in the

lake of fire that was prepared for the Devil and his angels. (See Matthew 25:31, 41-46) And He said, “**‘For I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did visit Me.’** Then they themselves also will answer, **‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and [we] did not take care of You?’** [And] then He will answer...**‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’** [Those] **will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”** (Matthew 25:42-46) You know, so often we want to believe in eternal life but we do not want to believe in eternal judgment. We don’t like the idea that “judgment” could last for all eternity—that it could go on forever and ever. We don’t like the idea that there is a place [where the worm dies not, where the fire is not quenched]. (PARAPHRASE, Mark 9:44, 46, 48) And yet, Beloved, you have to know this: that the same Greek word that is used for eternal life is the same Greek word that is used for eternal punishment. What is happening? He is judging those who are the nations who have either treated the Jews right, or have mistreated the Jews. Remember what He said to Abraham, in Genesis chapter 12, “**...I will bless [those] who bless you and....**” I will curse those who curse you. (Genesis 12:3) Jesus was of the Tribe of Judah. Jesus was of the house of David. Jesus was a Jew. Jesus was an Israelite. **“He came [unto] His own, and...His own did not receive Him.”** (John 1:11) And yet, He did not reject His own. And so during that final, final time of tribulation such as the world has never seen there is a dividing of the sheep from the goats at that time, according to whether they honor God’s Word and do as they should do, and that is take care of the Jews. Down through the ages you’ve seen it. You saw it in the Crusades, if you’ve studied the history or you’ve read my book, “Israel, My Beloved.” You see it in the Crusades. You see it in the

Russian pogroms. You see it in the time of Hitler. You see it in the Holocaust. There were gentiles from the nations, and the Jews called them “the righteous gentiles,” that at the peril of their own lives took the Jews in, hid them, fed them, clothed them, protected them, went to prison and took care of them. Those righteous gentiles serve as a picture for us of the sheep when Jesus Christ comes in His glory. Just know this: He’s going to divide the nations. (See Matthew 25:31-32) And immediately, immediately those people that have treated the Jews right are going to have the gift of eternal life. And those that have not, immediately, they’re going to be cast into the lake of fire, **“...into eternal punishment.” (Matthew 25:31)** They will live forever and ever. Precious One, what you and I need to know and understand is that once we are born, we are eternal beings. We’re going to live for all eternity in one place or the other. We’re either going to live in the presence of God and enjoy eternal life, or we’re going to live in the presence of the Devil and his angels and we are going to suffer the torment of eternal punishment. You may say to me, I don’t like that. I don’t like that. I can’t believe that about God. And all I can say to you, Precious One, is that if you can’t believe that about God it’s because you haven’t read the Book. It’s because you haven’t read the whole counsel of God. It is because you have not honored His precepts for life. It is because you have not [esteemed His word more precious than your necessary food]. (PARAPHRASE, Job23:12) Because if you’ll read the Book, if you’ll open the Book and read the Book, if you’ll read it from cover to cover, you’ll understand that day [when He sits on His glorious throne and separates the sheep from the goats.] (See Matthew 25:31-32) The question is: What is your attitude towards Israel? What is your attitude to those that, in a sense, are blood brothers of Jesus Christ? You better treat them the way God says to treat them. Now when we go back to Matthew chapter 25, He says to those on His right, **“...Come you who are blessed of My Father...” (Matthew 25:34)** He addresses them as **“...blessed of My Father....” (Matthew 25:34)** Then He tells them how



they took care of Him because they took care of the least of the brethren. In verse 37 it says, **“Then the righteous will answer Him....” (Matthew 25:37)** Remember, these are righteous people. Remember Jesus said, **“...Unless your righteousness [exceeds the righteousness] of the scribes and Pharisees, you [shall in no wise] enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:20)** So many times we think it’s all by faith. Yes, it is all by faith. But faith has its evidence, and the evidence of faith is righteousness. Have you got that? The evidence of faith is righteousness. These people were righteous and they took care of the Jews because of what they believed. They were willing to risk their lives, they were willing to side with even **“...the least of these....,”** because they were righteous. **(Matthew 25:40)** Righteousness is doing what God says is right. It’s not what you think is right or wrong. And then when He turns to the goats in verse 41, it says, **“Then He will...say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire....’ ” (Matthew 25:41)** **“...Depart from Me accursed ones....” (Matthew 26:41)** Why are they “accursed?” They are accursed because they are not righteous. Only the righteous are going to inherit eternal life. Only the righteous are going to inherit the kingdom of God. Precious One, my question to you is this: Is there a righteousness that supports the words of your mouth? Do you live according to what God says is right? Otherwise, if you don’t, your profession is nothing without the deeds that follow it.