

Christ Church Kid's Lesson

Sheep or Goats?

Matthew 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left." Matthew 25:31-33

How many of you think you can tell a sheep from a goat? Wait a minute! It may not be as easy as you think. I have some pictures to show you and we will see how well you can tell a sheep from a goat.

1-



2-



3-



4-



5-



6-



7-



Answers - 1- goat, 2- goat, 3-sheep, 4-sheep, 5-sheep, 6-sheep, 7-goat

Wow! That wasn't as easy as we thought it would be, was it? Here are a few hints that might help. The easiest way to tell a goat from a sheep is that a goat's tail usually sticks up in the air but a sheep's tail hangs down. If sheep have horns, they are usually curved. A goat's horns are less curved. Sheep usually have fluffy wool that must be sheared, while goats have flatter hair.

Do you think Jesus can tell the sheep from the goats? Well, that's what our Bible lesson is about today. One day Jesus was speaking to a group of followers about the day when the Son of Man would come in all his glory. (Son of Man was a title Jesus used for himself.) He said, "He will sit on his throne and all of the nations will be gathered before him. He will separate the people like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left." How did he know the sheep from the goats?

Jesus went on to explain, "He will say to those on his right, 'I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

"When did we do that?" the righteous ones will ask.

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

"Then he will turn to those on the left and say, 'I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.'

"Then they will ask, 'When did we refuse to help you?'

"He will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'

But what does this mean for us? Does it mean we'll get in trouble if we don't do enough to help every needy person we see? Well, of course we can't help everyone that asks. And we know that we are saved by the grace of God and the blood of Christ, not by anything that we do. However, it is important to take care of other people, because it shows that we love God. He has loved us and given us all we could possibly need. Because of that, we want to share His love with those around us. God lets us be part of His plan to serve people. He sends people our way who need God's care, and then we have opportunities to help them. Sometimes this means giving to people who don't have much. Sometimes it means just showing someone that we are willing to listen if they need to talk, or saying a kind word to someone who is sad. We know that all people are made in God's image, and even people who might seem hard to love are His. Even people who are hurt, or sad, or stinky! They all belong to God, and we recognize His Lordship when we take care of them. So keep your eyes open! There are chances around us all the time to love and serve Jesus by loving and serving His children. We are special agents of His work. We can be joyful and hopeful about His eventual return, and meanwhile we love Him and His people.

Prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for letting us be part of your work
When we serve other people, we serve you
Help us look for ways to do that
And to care for those around us
Help us to share your love
In Jesus name, Amen!