

MINISTERING MIGHTILY*Matthew 25:31 - 46***Devotional Reading: 25:14 – 15, 19 - 30****Background Scripture: Matthew 25****LESSON AIMS:** the students will:

- **SUMMARIZE** Jesus' description of what will happen at the final judgment
- **CONTRAST** the behavior of the "sheep" with that of the "goats"
- **WRITE** a plan to serve Jesus in the week ahead as the "sheep" do

INTRODUCTION: Jesus continued instructing His disciples concerning His second coming, answering, in Chapter 24, the disciples' question, which is His reason for His coming to earth. He told the disciples that He will return that He will sit on a throne, and He will sit as Judge. Today's passage is a part of three parables Jesus gave to help believers as we look forward to His return.

KEY VERSE: ³⁴ *Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

³⁵ *For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Matthew 25:34 - 35 / KJV*

LESSON:

The Judge

Matthew 25:31 - 33

The Sheep

verses 34 - 40

Summary: When Christ does come, there will be a final judgment in which He will separate the righteous and unrighteous. God will separate His obedient followers from pretenders and unbelievers. The real evidence of our belief is the way we act. How we treat others shows how we feel about Jesus and what He taught us. Feed the hungry, give the homeless a place to stay, look after the sick. How well do your actions separate you from pretenders and unbelievers?

Questions:

1. *What do you have to do in order to be ready for the return of Christ the King?*
2. *How might our faith be strengthened if we think of our ministry to others as being directed to Jesus Himself?*
3. *How would you respond to the claim that a loving God would not allow a person to experience everlasting punishment?*

LIVING LASTLY
Matthew 19:16 - 30

DAY / DATE	SCRIPTURE	
<i>Mon., Feb. 17th</i>	Equipped for Every Good Work	2 Timothy 3:10 – 17
<i>Tue., Feb. 18th</i>	Delight in God's Ways	Psalm 119:17 – 24
<i>Wed., Feb. 19th</i>	The Bridegroom Is Coming	Matthew 25:1 – 13
<i>Thurs., Feb. 20th</i>	Praise for a Faithful Servant	Matthew 25:14 – 15, 19 – 30
<i>Fri., Feb. 21st</i>	Choose the Way of Faithfulness	Psalm 119:41 – 48
<i>Sat., Feb. 22nd</i>	The Fast That God Chooses	Isaiah 58
<i>Sun., Feb. 23rd</i>	Compassion for the Least	Matthew 25:31 - 46