



Read Matthew 25:31-46

1. This passage is a parable about the judgment. In this parable, Jesus talks about the “sheep” and the “goats.” Who are the sheep and who are the goats?
2. Throughout church history, Christians have believed we are “saved by grace through faith, not by works.” Do you think this passage makes it seem like salvation is based on works? How do you reconcile these seemingly conflicting ideas?
3. What are the specific works Jesus mentions in this parable?
4. Can you think of a time when you participated in any of these works? Would you say you practice them regularly? How?
5. Why do you think Jesus uses these works as basis for judgment?
6. What would you say to someone who said that churches should only do evangelism and social action isn't important?
7. Biblically speaking, do you think it's important that Christians (and the church as a whole) are involved in social issues? If so, in what ways should they be involved?
8. Why do you think God has such a special concern for the “poor?”
9. What do you think we receive when we associate with the poor?
10. Why is it helpful to think about the poor and oppressed as “Jesus?” (vs. 40)
11. Is there a relationship between meeting people's physical and material needs and their eternal destiny?
12. Why is it so easy to forget about the poor?
13. What will you do to ensure you are doing your part to care for the poor?