

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – October 29, 2023

Theme: The Urgency of the Last Days Topic: Serving the Master Through One Another

Main Text: Matthew 25:31-46

Key verse: Matthew 25:40 - *“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me’”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Under our theme for this quarter - The Urgency of the Last Days, one of the main objectives, is to highlight the “solemn reminder that Jesus is coming back soon, therefore, we need to keep our eyes and hearts focused on the things of God”. We are told in the word of God, that the Day of the Lord (Judgement) is the culmination of the last days (Matthew 25:31). Today’s passage gives us a clear representation of what is to come. It makes us aware, that when Jesus comes again, He will sit on His Throne of Glory and judge all nations. The “sheep” and the “goats” will be together, mixed in with one another, tares amongst the wheat. But there will be a separation, a day of recognition by Christ of who is who, and who represents what. To be unprepared is to neglect the need for urgency in being ready for His coming.

1. (a) Read Matthew 25:35-36, 40; 1 Peter 4:8-10. What are the specific pointers to preparedness in these passages? (b) Read John 2:24-25 TPT, MSG. What key character flaws did Christ see in man that could weaken our preparedness for the day of separation? (c) Which of these is more indicative of a lack of growth in the Christian? Explain.

Serving the Master through one another is a recognition of the times and the need to prepare through persistence in sacrifice, self-denial and love for one another. When we show love and compassion to those who are poor and needy and who may not have the capacity or the ability to reciprocate, we reflect the life of Christ. However, compassionate service alone is not enough. Our service must be acceptable in the Lord’s eyes. Jesus called the sheep “righteous” and the goats “unrighteous”. So, in addition to the compassionate service the “sheep” offered, they were acceptable in the Lord’s eyes because they were righteous through Christ. Charitable works done out of a wrong heart or out of the need for recognition is not acceptable to God (Genesis 4:5-7). Among brethren, charitable works is a command from Christ (John 13:14-15, Matthew 25:40).

2. (a) Read Genesis 4:5-7, 1 Samuel 13:12-14a. Why did God reject Cain’s offering and Saul’s kingship? (b) The righteousness of God is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe (Romans 3:21-22). What is the significance of this with respect to our service to The Master? (c) What are practical ways to serve one another? How does it translate to serving the Master?

In Matthew 15:8 Jesus says, *“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.”* Those who are unkind to people and treat them callously, without any regard, do not have the life of Christ in them. Such people will be surprised on the Day of Judgement when the verdict is given. Jesus, while He was on earth, was the perfect example of preparedness. He understood the seasons and times He was in. Therefore, He was not surprised but ready for the foretold events of His death. In the same way, we His children should not lose a sense of God’s timing and should be prepared for His return.

3. (a) Read Luke 19:41-44 MSG. In what ways does life today give a semblance of missed opportunities? (b) Read Matthew 24:36. How can we stay alert in view of the suddenness of Christ’s imminent return? (c) Does the imminence of His return encourage or discourage us?

Prayer: *Dear Father, we realize that only You know the time and the hour of Christ’s coming; keep us alert to the times, and diligent in serving our Lord through one another always. Amen.*