



Nov. 22, 2020 Mt. 25: 31-46 & Ezek 34: 11-16

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

Q. What makes a person a Christian? What characterizes a Christian in contrast to the non-Christian?

A. A Christian is someone who's animated by the spirit of Christ, a person in whom the spirit of Christ can work. That doesn't always mean that you consciously know what you are doing. As it says in Matthew 25: "When have we seen you hungry? When have we seen you thirsty?" These people had no idea that they did what they did for Christ, and that it was Christian. But Christ said: "Because you did it, you did it for me." This is the final consequence of the Incarnation of God. The Word is no longer word; it has really become flesh. That means it never depends upon whether we say the right words, but whether we live the right reality. A Christian is someone who's inhabited by the spirit of Christ, which is a gift, as we know, yet a gift that we can say yes to without fully understanding the gift! Pg. 154-5. Rohr, Richard. *Simplicity: the Art of Living*. NY: Crossroad. 1992.

Mt. 25:31-46

31 When the Son of Man comes in his **glory**, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly **glory**.

32 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**. 33 He will put the **sheep** on his **right** and the **goats** on his **left**. 34 Then the **King** will say to those on his **right**, 'Come, you who are **blessed** by my Father; take your **inheritance**, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For 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, 36 I needed clothes and you **clothed** me, I was **sick** and you looked after me, I was in **prison** and you came to visit me.' 37 Then the **righteous** will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you **hungry** and feed you, or **thirsty** and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a **stranger** and invite you in, or needing **clothes** and **clothe** you? 39 When did we see you **sick** or in **prison** and go to visit you?' 40 The King will reply, 'I tell you the **truth**, whatever you did for one of the **least** of these **brothers** of mine, you did for me.' 41 Then he will say to those on his left, '**Depart** from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was **hungry** and you gave me nothing to eat, I was **thirsty** and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a **stranger** and you did not invite me in, I needed **clothes** and you did not **clothe** me, I was **sick** and in **prison** and you did not look after me.' 44 They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a **stranger** or needing **clothes** or **sick** or in **prison**, and did not help you?' 45 He will reply, 'I tell you the **truth**, whatever you did not do for one of the **least** of these, you did not do for me.' 46 Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to **eternal life**."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Those who responded to the needs of others did so without expecting anything in return. In fact they didn't even remember doing anything for Jesus. When was the last time you responded to a need just because it was the "right thing to do"?

PRAYER: Lord, you so identified with us that you opened yourself whenever and wherever you encountered a real unmet need. So often I miss a chance to respond because I don't identify with the other who is in need. I pass by, often telling myself that this is not my business: or, worse yet, looking for an excuse to blame the victim. Help me to see that each time I do that I am forgetting and foregoing a chance to grow in love. Amen.