

# Short Stories - Epic Truths

The background of the image is a photograph of a vast field of green grass, likely corn, stretching towards a horizon. The sky above the horizon is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and light blues, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is peaceful and expansive.

**Summer 2018**

## Matthew 25: 31-46

<sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

## Matthew 25: 31-46

**<sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right,  
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father,  
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the  
foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry  
and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you  
gave me drink, I was a stranger and you  
welcomed me,**

**<sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick  
and you visited me, I was in prison and you  
came to me.'**

## Matthew 25: 31-46

**<sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup> And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?**

**<sup>39</sup> And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers (and sisters), you did it to me.'**

## Matthew 25: 31-46

**<sup>41</sup> “Then he will say to those on his left,  
‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal  
fire prepared for the devil and his angels. <sup>42</sup> For  
I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was  
thirsty and you gave me no drink,  
<sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome  
me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and  
in prison and you did not visit me.’**

## Matthew 25: 31-46

**<sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’**

**<sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”**

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## Matthew 25: 31-46

**<sup>32</sup> Before him will be gathered all the nations,  
and he will separate people one from another  
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the  
goats.**





What **basis**, what criteria, did Jesus use for the separation?



Jesus separates the two groups of people on the basis of what they ARE!

# Matthew 25: 31-46

<sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on his right,  
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father,  
inherit the kingdom prepared for you...

## John 1:12

<sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his (Jesus's) name, he gave the right to become children of God.

## Ephesians 1:13

**<sup>13</sup> you were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession.**

## 2 Corinthians 5:17

**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”**



**Their behavior comes into alignment with their belief.**

## Matthew 25:31-46

**<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'**

## Matthew 25:31-46

**37 Then the righteous answer him, saying,  
'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty?  
38 And when did we welcome you as a stranger  
and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you  
sick or in prison and visit you?'**

*“If you’ve done it for the least of these, you’ve  
done it for me.”*

Jesus-

The sheep are not sheep because they served God, they served God *because* they are sheep!

The sheep are not sheep because they served God, they served God *because* they are sheep!

What they do is a reflection of who they ARE. And who they ARE has been determined by what they believe.

## Matthew 25:31-46

**<sup>42</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,**

**<sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'**

## Matthew 25:31-46

**<sup>44</sup> They answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'**

**<sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'**

## Matthew 25:31-46

**...to those on his left (the Goats), 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'**

Concerning Hell:

*“There is no doctrine which I would more willingly remove from Christianity than this, if it lay in my power.”* C.S. Lewis



**What you DO is a reflection of what you ARE.  
And who you ARE is determined by what (who)  
you believe.**