

Creekside Community Church  
Matthew: Return of the King  
April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Jeff Bruce, Lead Pastor

### **How I Treat Them is How I Treat Him (Matthew 25:31-46)**

#### **1. How the Nations Demonstrate that Jesus is Their King (Matthew 25:31-46)**

#### **2. How We Demonstrate that Jesus is Our King (James 2:14-16)**

**For further thought and discussion:**

#### **Getting Started**

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. Have you ever been in the presence of greatness? Did you realize it? How did it impact the way you treated that person?

#### **Going Deeper**

3. Jesus judges the nations according to how they treat the “*least of these*” (vv. 40, 45). Who are the “*least of these*”? What clues does Matthew provide regarding their identity (see Matthew 10:38-42; 12:50; 18:5-6; 24:9-14; 28:18-20)? How does this impact our understanding of the passage?
4. Jesus appears to judge the nations on the basis of their works (vv. 35-36; 42-43). How do we reconcile this with what Scripture teaches elsewhere; namely, that we’re justified by faith alone (e.g. Romans 3:21-36; 4:5-6; Galatians 2:16)?
5. Why will genuine faith in Jesus *inevitably* produce concern for our fellow Christians (and particularly, Christians in distress)? See Acts 9:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:22-26; James 2:1-6, 14-16; 1 John 3:14-18.
6. Who has God’s kingdom been prepared for (see v. 34)? When was it prepared (v. 34)? Who has the “*eternal fire*” been prepared for (v. 41)? Why are these details significant? How do they help us understand hell’s function within God’s redemptive plan for creation?

### Application

7. What will Jesus’ ambassadors experience as they proclaim the gospel to the nations (vv. 35-36, 42-43)? What will it take for the church to accomplish its mission (see also 1 Corinthians 4:9-13)? What implications does this have for how we view missions/evangelism? Where do you need to embrace discomfort to advance God’s mission?
8. According to Jesus, genuine faith produces deeds of mercy. In this passage, those who welcome Christ as King offer (1) sustenance, (2) shelter, and (3) support to his representatives.<sup>1</sup> Which of these acts of mercy could you provide to another disciple? What could that look like? Which of these acts do you feel drawn to perform? Why?
9. What’s one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?

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<sup>1</sup> Categories taken from Trevin Wax, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevin-wax/sheep-goats-3/>.