



Come & See What God Has Done

I Will Judge

Dec. 14

Standing in judgment of someone else is one of the easiest traps you and I can fall into. We tend to decide how good or bad a person is by looking at a single moment in the total life of a person. We often do so out of practicality or lack of consideration. I admit this is a spiritual growth area for me. How are you doing in this respect? I hope you are better than me. We find a promise of judgment in the words of the Lord that came to the prophet Ezekiel as found in Ezekiel 34:22. I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep.

Jesus shares how this Ezekiel prophecy will be fulfilled. Jesus, the Son of Man, will judge as we read in Matthew 25:31-36. "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 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. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 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. 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, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' His words can be difficult to hear and are easily misunderstood if taken out of context. Let's explore this a bit more.





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Jesus' judgment seems to be based on doing a lot of good works. To an extent, that would be true. But, and this is a significant point, the justification for doing these works is critical in considering the above verses. Are the good works being done to "earn" salvation? If so, then they will be judged accordingly. Salvation cannot be earned. Yet, if the good deeds are done out of love and compassion, that is what Jesus refers to in Matthew 25. Compassion and mercy, not sacrifice, is what Jesus desires. Jesus modeled compassion to many in His time. He gained nothing, yet He gave benefits to many. He gave to many out of love. Jesus modeled for us behavior that reflected the will of His Father. Jesus modeled judgment-free behavior. That is the takeaway for you and me.

Each of us will face judgment when our lives here end. This is a promised judgment. None can escape judgment. I think back to the story of Ebenezer Scrooge and the lesson Bob Marley tried to share with Scrooge. As Marley put it, our job and our care is to humanity. Not self-enrichment. The words of Jesus are to be held close to our hearts. We must reach out in our abundance to those in need. In love, we do these acts of compassion.

Leaning on Jesus
Forest Holmes

