STANDING before the KING
Matthew 25:14-46

Introduction:
We are all just one heartbeat away from eternity. What happens then? Just three days before he was crucified, Jesus told these two stories to illustrate what is to come.

I. THERE IS A COMING JUDGMENT FOR THE BELIEVER AND THE UNBELIEVER. MATTHEW 25:14-30

“Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.” Hebrews 9:27

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- A talent represents more than just money. It represents our gifts and abilities as well as our wealth.
- There is an expectation that we will wisely use the gifts we have been given.

- When the Master returns he will ask us what we have done with the gifts we have been given.
- The two who put their talents to work were genuine disciples and they were praised equally.
- The third servant was not a disciple and in the final judgment even what he had was taken away.
II. IT WILL BE A JUDGMENT BASED ON WORKS.
MATTHEW 25:31-45

This is a difficult concept to understand. We know we are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. We can't earn our salvation by doing good works. Ephesians 2:8-9
Yet we also know that a genuine faith will result in a changed life.

“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2:14-17

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS
• When the Son of Man comes in his glory — Daniel 7:13-14
• All nations will be gathered before him.
• He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Who are the least of these my brothers?
• All people.
• All believers.
• Christian Missionaries.
• Jewish believers in the Great Tribulation.
• Tribulation Martyrs.
The best answer is “all believers” according to Jesus’ use of the word brothers in Matthew.

When will this judgment take place?
• At the end of the Great Tribulation before the Millennial Kingdom
• At the end of the Age before the Final State.
Revelation 20:11-15
This doesn’t mean we aren’t to help all people in need.

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:10

Knowing that Jesus is talking about believers helps us to interpret this passage correctly.

Jesus is saying that the way they treat you is the way they treat me.

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

For those who follow Christ it will mean:

• The blessing of God
• Eternal joy
• Eternal life
• An Eternal inheritance

For those who reject Christ it will mean:

• Darkness
• Eternal fire
• Eternal punishment.
• Weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Conclusion:

In the end there are only

• Two kinds of people – those who know Jesus and those who do not.
• Two destinies – heaven or hell

Let’s live our life today fully for the glory of God, so that when that day comes there will be no if only’s and no regrets.