

THE FINAL JUDGMENT

SERIES: END TIMES | WEEK 8 | 5.30.2021

Good morning. You are a happy group today, that makes me really, really happy. And I am excited to bring you this last message on the end times. Jesus at the very end of the Bible said I'm coming soon, I want you to be. By the way, that's exactly what the response was in Revelation – Amen! Come quickly, Lord Jesus! So I love it that that was your natural response. Jesus is coming soon, come quickly, Lord Jesus.

And, you know, as we've been going through this series one of the things that we found is there's some hard stuff ahead and that could cause us to get discouraged, it could cause us to be scared, but I want you to refocus for a second because our whole focus here at Calvary is on Jesus, not on bad times. Are there bad times? Yes. Are there some hard things happening in your life right now? Yes. But how do we get through that as followers of Jesus Christ? We put our eyes on Jesus. It's all about Jesus. And so that's within the message of even this whole passage where Jesus tries to answer their questions, you know, when's this going to happen, what are the signs of the times, what's the sign of the end? And Jesus gives that, He walks them through that, explains that to them; says hey, there's going to be these things called birth pangs, you know, earthquakes, wars, rumors of wars, false prophets that are going to come up, pestilence, but that's not the end. That's just birth pangs.

And He says oh, and then they're going to deliver you into Tribulation and it's going to start out with a peace treaty, where there's going to be this thought of peace but there's not going to be peace, and a lot of you are going to be martyred for that, but that's not even the big thing. The Great Tribulation, this last portion of it before Jesus returns, this Great Tribulation is going to be marked by the Antichrist, when the Antichrist steps into the temple that has been rebuilt and desecrates that temple, then you'll know that last 3½ years of The Tribulation are going to take place, and that's a Great Tribulation. And Jesus walked us through all that, but then at the very end of all that Jesus says but I'm coming back. And even when we get to the end of our Bible, I'm coming soon, and we respond with "Amen, come quickly, Lord Jesus."

Even the final book of the Bible, you'll hear a lot of people call it Revelations [PLURAL] but it's not, that's just what we've heard people say so we've repeated it. Just one Revelation and it is the Revelation of Jesus, it's meant to reveal Jesus. And even as you go through the book of Revelation what ends up happening is you see all these things being dealt with to cleanse and get us back to our original intent, the way things were meant to be all along, clean this place up, and Jesus is revealed and Jesus comes back. That's what we wait for, that's what we're looking for, that's what we're praying for. And by the way, that's what we encourage each other with. And so one of the things I'm hoping as we wrap up this day, wrap up this series, is that we will be a people that keeps this in front of us. This isn't just one thing and now we're on to the next thing, this should be part of the believer's mindset and thought process that we're looking forward to the return of Jesus.

So, yes, things are tough and there's stuff going on in your life today that is hurting you. There's going to be stuff that comes in the world in the days ahead that the Scripture says is gonna cause men's hearts to fail them for fear after what is coming, and Jesus wants you to know don't be afraid, put your eyes on Me. And so as we remember this, as we wrap this up, I just want to keep on focusing your eyes towards Jesus.

So our hope is that you'll remember Chapters 24 & 25 of Matthew, that you'll be able to talk them through, that you'll be able to remember that Jesus starts out His disciples are asking Him three questions, then He tells them the answers to His [their] questions by talking about the birth pangs, The Tribulation, and The Great Tribulation, and then He tells some stories to help sort of drive that all home. Started out with a story about a fig tree, hey, when you see these things happening, these things that I just told you about, when you see these things happening know that the time is near, even at the door,

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right now, and He's just saying you can know and you need to keep your eyes open, church. And He's telling us that story to help us remind us of that so that this isn't something that when we're done reading Chapter 25 and we said that's it, but we're going to now be a people that keep our eyes open. Then He gives the analogy of Noah and the ark, and Noah preaching repentance for 120 years to all of a sudden one day the door goes closed. And this one reminder in each of these parables that Jesus tells in this one, in the days of Noah, He says be ready now so you're ready then. That day is coming when the door goes closed, when the moment and the opportunity to respond in obedience to God, even when it doesn't make any sense.

And by the way a lot of stuff doesn't make sense to our tiny little heads that God is doing in the world, but we just say, "I'll believe you, God." So when they were looking at a worldwide flood that was an impossibility in their minds, they couldn't understand it, they couldn't even grasp it, and they said, "Nope, I don't believe You, God." And throughout the Bible that's always what saving faith has been—believing God, believing God, believing what He says, and saying, "Yes, God, I will believe You. Even if I don't fully get it, doesn't fully make sense to me, I'm going to believe you, God, because You are God and I'm going to follow You."

So He told the story about the fig tree, told the story about Noah. By the way, God puts Noah and his family on that boat, those who would repent on that boat, protects them through the storm when He's dealing with the issues of the world and wiping out the sin in the world. Is it possible, just asking, is it possible that there's something in that a little bit more? Is it possible maybe God's going to do something to protect us through these times? I don't know, Jesus throws that out there.

Go on and what's fascinating about these next couple stories, things like two men are out in the field, one is taken away, one's left behind. You've got two women grinding at the mill, one is taken away, one is left behind. There's this ongoing thing that we're gonna see throughout the stories that Jesus tells of there's two groups of people, one who is ready, one who's not; one who's obedient, one who's not; one who's blessed, one who's not. And there's this constant reminder that Jesus is trying to get to us by telling us these stories, like, you're going to be one of these and you've got to make a choice. I have to make a choice. All of us in here make a choice, no one else can make the choice for us. This is like the thief that comes in the night and if the owner of the house had known, this is one of the stories Jesus tells, if the owner of the house had known that thief was coming the owner house would have been ready.

And one of the reasons for reading these and talking about it over an eight-week period of time is to remind us to be ready. Even as Jesus tells us, hey, here are some signs, here's some stuff going on, so that we're ready, so when we start seeing those things we know what to do. It's way more than just filling up our curiosity, which is a lot of what the apocalyptic, um, talks are, um, end times talks are. The reason why people want to hear more is it's like, "I'm curious how this is all going to work." People love to know what the future is going to be, but Jesus says I'm telling you this stuff so when you start seeing some very specific things I want you to immediately go, "I've got to be ready." And had that owner of the house known he would have been ready, if he had known that thief was coming he would have been ready.

Then He tells a story, a very different story about a servant that was placed over a household, and another servant that was placed over a household. The master, the owner, goes away for a very long time. He gives them one assignment, feed the people in the home. One guy does it, one guy doesn't. The one guy follows it and the other guy, he just lives this life that just spirals down and it's all about living for himself. One Jesus calls wicked, and the one He calls blessed.

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So as we are people that follow what God says and listens to what He says and we're ready, there's a whole bunch of words used here—be watchful, stay awake, be ready, um, the next one's waiting—He tells a story about ten virgins. Five that were ready, five that were not, and the ones that were not all of a sudden they're panicked in this passionate moment and it's too late. Five ready, five not, and again, the question is there's different people among us in this room and we can't tell, y'all look great today, you look nice, you know, we... for those of you watching from somewhere else in the world, it's cold here today. We don't know what happened, we think it might have turned into fall and we missed summer, and so we're all dressed up, all bundled up here. We're just sort of a little bit confused here.

You all look great but something's going on in each of our hearts and we're different, and each of us have a different response to Jesus and we're different. And we're not Christ followers because we came to *this* place today or because we dialed into this livestream today, we're Christ's followers because He's changed our life and we're ready. In the parable of the ten virgins there's this reminder of we gotta be people that are waiting and when you're waiting you stay ready while you're waiting. And again, that's why we keep teaching this and why the Scripture tells us we're to teach it. It's why the Scripture keeps on telling us to watch and be ready, because if we're not watching and if we're not ready and if I don't remind us to do so we will become lazy and we'll just sort of go about doing our own little thing. And Jesus says listen, this is happening, this is real, this is legit, watch, be ready.

And then He goes into one more parable and it's called the parable of the talents. And a talent in that time was a measure of money or a measure of value, so you might have had a measure of value of gold or a measure of value of silver. And He tells the story about how He's about ready to leave earth and He wants to give His disciples instructions and He's leaving a work, a task to His disciples. So He just got done telling about waiting and some people wait to go quit their jobs and jump on a roof. No, He says hey, I'm going to tell you to wait, you gotta keep your eyes open and you gotta be patient and you gotta be ready, but while you're waiting and while you're ready I want you to be working, I want you to be using this life that I've given you. And so He tells the story about the talents and let me read a little bit of it, Chapter 25, verse 14, says this:

14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to

— I like this:

each according to his ability.

— so based on what he thought they could handle he gave them these talents, and then it says he went away:

Then he went away.

— so he goes away and after a very long time he comes back, and here's what the parable tells us – two use the talents well, and one did not. This just keeps on going back to this these people did well with it, these people didn't; these people had their eyes open, these didn't. And so here in the talent they're given something from the master, given it to use, when he returns, look at verse 16, it says:

16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more."

– MATTHEW 25:14-16 (ESV)

And what the text goes on to say is the one that was given five talents, he took that and he made five more talents. When the master came back he was able to give him a 100% return. The master goes, "Well done, well done. In fact, it says you were faithful with little, I'm gonna set you over much." And

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he goes, "Enter into my joy." The person with two, he comes back with a 100% return as well, he says the same thing, "Well done, you were faithful with a little, I'm gonna entrust you with much. Enter into my joy." And the last one who had one talent, he took his out, he didn't invest it, he buried it and so he only comes back with that same one and he says, when the master came back, he said, "You wicked servant," and, um, he says, "You are a wicked and slothful servant."

I'm just reminded here, the reward of using what God's given you, according to what He's given you because He's given each one of us something different to work with, um, the reward is found here in verse 23 of Chapter 25. It says:

23 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'"

– MATTHEW 25:23 (ESV)

Not too long ago I was talking to someone who I thought made an interesting decision. They left one situation and entered into another one and it was like they were leaving this what appeared to be a great, awesome situation and entered into this situation and it was for spiritual reasons, it was for ministry reasons. And I said to this person, "What were you thinking? I mean, you could have stayed where you're at and it was a sweet situation. It looked like good things were happening there, but you stepped down and you stepped into what seemed to be sort of an ugly situation." And this guy looked at me, and I probably should be ashamed that I even asked that question, why would you step from here to here, and he looks at me and he says, "I only have this one life to give and I want to use it to the fullest." In other words, he's telling me I want to leverage what God's given me to get more, and I was convinced if I stepped down in this situation—that's not always the case, sometimes you'll step up—but it was a change to leverage what he had for God.

And since then this one little phrase has been sticking my head just because this guy, he inspired me with, remember, you can inspire other people by just the things I say, and the thing that crossed my mind is this: This one life I have to give. And that just keeps coming into my mind as I'm making decisions about, um, yeah, good, better, do I do this or do I do this? I think this one life I live, how am I going to invest? I can be that guy that has the one talent, buries it, and he says, hey, wicked servant, are you kidding me? I gave you this one life and you didn't leverage it. Instead to stop and step back and go no, I want to leverage that for eternity.

I don't know about you but to me that is super motivating. So in the same moment that you have this waiting, you know, the ten virgins waiting, being ready, you have this I'm going to use what God's given me to make the most out of today. And a bunch of you are already doing that. And we're actually motivated by that. We're also involved here at Calvary just trying to encourage you along that line. And a lot of people get it sort of mixed up because they're like, "Oh, we gotta help the church because the church needs..." No. No. We are a group of people who are saying we want to leverage what God's given us to make a difference in other people's lives. We want to multiply what God's given us, whether that's a physical talent, whether it's financial what God's given us, something physical that God's given, to say we want to multiply that, we want to make a difference with it.

So what Jesus said, do that, [POINTS AT SOMEONE APPLAUDING IN AUDIENCE] thank you, so here's what Jesus does, here's what Jesus does. He took us through this beginning part where He answered the three questions of the disciples. He told them what we're going to be going through, then He sort of speaks to us in stories to help us just become motivated and just go, "Yes, okay, I get it. I'm going to be ready and I have these stories stuck in my head to be ready." And then He comes back and He begins back in what I would call a teaching section, so that first part there where we talked about, um, The Tribulation and

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The Great Tribulation, all that was a teaching section. There wasn't much in a way of metaphor, it was just straight up here's what's going to happen, then this is going to happen, then this is going to happen, then this is going to happen, stop, tell a few stories, like illustrations. And then He comes back at the end and gives us a little bit more straight up teaching, informational stuff that we need to know. So that's where we're at right here when we enter into verse 31 of Chapter 25.

So Matthew 25:31, and to me this is going to get a little rocky here in a minute, but right up front this gets really exciting. Remember we said our focus when we're looking at end times is to see Jesus, we want to see Him come back, set up His Kingdom, and make everything right here on earth. You and I are tired of the beating we take every day because sin has messed up this world. The stuff you're frustrated with in your life is because sin has fouled what was supposed to be. It wasn't meant to be this way. If there had not been that original sin in the garden, it wouldn't have been this way, but we choose that and it's only getting worse. And the Scriptures told us that in the end times it's only going to get worse, but in Chapter 25:31 it begins to resolve with some final things. Listen to these words:

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

– MATTHEW 25:31 (ESV)

I'm just telling you that's what we're looking for. Here's the picture Jesus has returned, remember we read that in the last part of His teaching section, He says He comes back in all of His glory. Now, He moves, as He comes back He moves into Jerusalem where He sets up His throne. He and His holy angels, King Jesus on His throne reigning and ruling over planet earth. And that's something that you and I are just so ready to have happen [APPLAUSE]. We're waiting for that day. Yes, there's gonna be some hard days till we get there, there's gonna be some crazy stuff. I have a feeling there's a whole bunch of stuff we don't fully know. He told us enough to make sure that we're pointed in the right direction, but there is coming a day when He will reign and rule,

And, if you just looked at that about the talents He says hey, listen, He's going to set us up, He's going to give us the opportunity, He's going to give us the reward. Those of us who use this moment well, He's going to let us reign and rule in that time. Crazy thought that because of what we do now is going to impact what happens then. Yes. It should be motivating. It should be exciting, uh, moving forward. Jesus, King Jesus on His throne in Jerusalem. This reminder that we've had all along, I wrote at the end of the book of Revelation, "we win." Jesus wins. This is all about Him and victory. The enemy does not get to win, does not win the day. I know oftentimes we think, "Aw, man, Satan is so strong and I just feel like I'm just constantly pushed around." No, Jesus is stronger. Jesus is powerful. And that's why we want to be a people that put our attention on Jesus. And so even as we read through all this stuff we don't want you to get discouraged. Actually, I want you to get encouraged. I want you to look forward to the day that He comes into Jerusalem and He sets up His throne.

But listen what happens next because this is important and this is something that, again, we talked about, you know, two out in the field, one is taken, the other one isn't, um, if you'd known the thief was coming, this is one of these reasons why He says you've gotta be ready. Listen to what it says, Chapter 25, verse 32:

32 "Before him

— so before, picture Jesus on the throne, you all have good imaginations, can you picture stuff? Jesus sitting on His throne, holy angels around Him, picture this scene, before Him:

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will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right,

— that's the sheep —

'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'

— Hear what He just said to the sheep, to those who have followed Him—come, inherit the Kingdom, this Kingdom that He has created for you—prepared by Father God from the foundation of the world. For you followers of Jesus Christ, those of you who love Jesus, that's you. He's prepared for you a Kingdom from the foundation of the world. That should motivate you, keep that in your mind when things are getting tough. I know it seems like forever but it's just a minute. Think about the problem you were dealing with a year ago, five years ago, ten years ago, it's so over, it's so yesterday. It doesn't even matter anymore. We're going to be in glory momentarily, we're going to be before Jesus momentarily, and He's going to say I prepared this all for you from the foundation of the world. My Father has loved you. He has chosen you and here you are enter, into my joy. And I want to just keep on reading. He says this, He says:

³⁵ 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, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me,

— some people say "neck-ud" [PHONETIC SPELLING], I don't know, I don't know what the difference is —

I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous

— will ask Him, they're a little confused. By the way, who are the righteous? We would never define the righteous by someone who's done good works. The Scripture's clear that will never make you righteous. That, in other words, right, righteous, right with God, your good works will never do that. The only way you and I become righteous is to trust the shed blood of the cross of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin, and then He gives us His righteousness and we give Him our sin, it's the great exchange. It's a powerful thing that we preach here all the time. You've got to hear, you've got to know it is an act of God and God has chosen you to be righteous from the foundation of the world, but we make it at a given time we make a decision to accept that righteousness.

The righteous are going to say to Him, whoa, whoa, whoa, wait a minute. You said you were hungry and we gave you food, and you were thirsty and we gave you drink, you're naked and we clothed you, um, I was in prison and you came to visit me...

will answer him saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

— listen to this:

⁴⁰ And the King

— [EMPHASIZES] picture the King – on the throne —

⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'"

– MATTHEW 25:35-40 (ESV)

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Oh, by the way, we're not talking here about because you did those things you did, you're going to Heaven. No. What He's saying, and you can see this by the fact that they're confused going, "Well, when did we do this?" They weren't doing it to try to get to Heaven. Instead, this is the natural response of their life. When you receive the righteousness of Jesus in your life you are no longer the same, you are changed, you are a new person, old things have passed away. Yes, old things as in sin. All things become new, you care about things you didn't used to care about, you love things that you didn't used to love, you love people that you didn't used to love, things are important to you that never were important to you before. You are a changed person. You know how you can know if you know Jesus – if He's changed your life.

I was just having this conversation just yesterday. Someone was like well, yeah, but they prayed a prayer when they were young. I love it, you know, I'm always inviting you to trust Jesus and put your, um, trust in Jesus, and I always am telling you that starts with a prayer saying, "Jesus, I repent of my sin. I turn from my sins. I want to trust You with my life." But that prayer is not just some, you know, rote thing that you pray and then you go do whatever you want and you live your life. That prayer begins a journey because in that moment if you truly repent, if you truly trust Jesus with your life, you are changed never to be the same again. And these people, they don't even realize they did these things because it's just who they were.

Even James, who talks about our works, he says listen, there's a lot of people that say they believe but they don't do anything, you don't see any results of that. He says just like demons, they say they believe, they believe there's a God, but they're not saved. The Scriptures tell us in Ephesians 2:8 & 9:

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works,

— this is what the whole of Scripture teaches, but then Ephesians 2:8 & 9 make this great statement:

so that no one may boast.

–EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (ESV)

I mean, you see it here. When did I do that? Because it's part of who I am. Um, I probably ought to think real fast of a good product that no one would know it was a good product until all of a sudden you just see this miraculous thing happen or occur. Right? I mean you watch this, uh, a cleaning product, and you see it in the can and you go, "I don't know, it's probably, you know, everything says it'll do everything, but this probably won't." Until all of a sudden someone pours it onto some dirt that you can't get off or a stain that you can't get off and POOF! gone is the mark. And you see it right in front of you and go, "That stuff is legit." If I had something like that here to show today you'd be like writing it down here because you saw me, like, get rid of that stain or whatever. When Jesus comes into a life and transforms you, people around you see that demonstrated in front of you. You see that demonstrated in front of you and you're like I know that I know that I know.

Hey, listen, Christians, we are a church that goes to all parts of the world. Many of you have traveled with us to other parts of the world to care for the needy and the hungry. Many of you have collected stuff for the Operation: Christmas Child boxes to care for people that are way, way less fortunate than us. Those are one-time events. We use them here to continue to do what Hebrews says to spur one another on to love and good deeds.¹ So, like, let's start doing this, let's do this more. And by the way, if we can do it in a shoe box and mail it off, if we can travel to the other side of the world, our hope is that

¹ Hebrews 10:24 (ESV): *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.*

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it'll stimulate us to say shoot, I can do this in my home, I can do this to my neighbor, I can do this with my friends—because the people that need to be reached the most are the people you're with all the time.

Some of the most important evangelism you'll ever do, some of the most important "least of these" that Jesus is referring to are the people around you. There's no missionary coming from somewhere on the other side of the sea to reach that person that's near you. There's no person coming from somewhere else to show Jesus to that person better than the people that are right around you. We have people right under our nose right now, right in our neighborhood, our next door neighbor, uh, in our own home who we can show and live out Jesus for. When Jesus is truly in our life, Jesus is just bleeding out in all parts of our lives. That's why we want to be a people reading our Bible. That's why we want the Spirit of God moving in our life in a powerful way so that these things will just naturally happen around us.

That's why I even mentioned it, I'll mention it again today, the prayer page on our Calvary website, if you just go to the groups page on the website it'll say prayer group, and if you click on that and join that you'll be able to go out there and look at all the prayer requests that come in all the time. You'll be able to put your prayer requests on there, you'll be able to see those prayer requests because what do we do? We care for each other, we love each other, we pray for each other, we pray for each other constantly, and the ability to be able to put your prayer requests out there and then see other people just write words of encouragement to you, to write prayers right there on that website, it's the most awesome thing to do. And maybe you don't even know that person, maybe that person has never even come into your circles, but you know they're in your community, you know they're in this community, and we can be praying for them.

And it's amazing how oftentimes people say, "I know them. They're going through that?" And all of a sudden meals are taken over, all of a sudden someone stops over and blesses them because we love each other, we care for each other. I mean, the people that everyone knows about that there are needs out there for, that's one thing, but it's that person that hardly anyone knows that's going through something that we as the body of Christ, we act like the church, we do what God's called us to because the church are people that have been saved, transformed by Jesus Christ.

Second Timothy Chapter 3, verse 2, says that in the end times people will be lovers of self, and everything I just said is absolute opposite to being a lover of self. And yet in our time you will see people verbally and in writing constantly say, "I'm learning to love myself." And everyone's like [APPLAUDING] "Oh, good for you!" Sign of the end times because what followers of Jesus Christ know is I am redeemed by Jesus. I was a sinner lost and the only good found in me is because of what Jesus did. I am only righteous because of Jesus' blood and how Jesus has changed me. The only good is found in me is the good that comes from Jesus. I was lost and in and of myself I continue to flail all around. I fail, I'm a mess, but my Jesus is beautiful.

2 TIMOTHY 3:2-5
For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

That's why we continue to say oh, even, come quickly, Lord Jesus. It's why we keep on drawing your attention to Jesus. Why here in just a couple minutes the band's going to come up here and lead us in an extended time of worship. Why? We want to put our eyes on Jesus because our eyes have been on ourselves all weeklong long and we think we're pretty good. Everyone said you're fine, man, you're awesome, you're great, and Jesus says I died for you because you weren't great, because you're a sinner. And God gives us His Spirit to help us through this life because we can't do it on our own, and we

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become very, very dependent on the Spirit of God in our life. For those of us who have depended on the Spirit of God, the response is enter into my joy, well done.

What I want to read next, boy, I even thought of ways that I could skip even reading it this morning, but I think we need to hear this because Jesus says it. Verse 41 of Chapter 25 of Matthew says this:

41 "Then he will say to those on his left,

— so we have the sheep on the right, we've got the goats on His left, He will say:

'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

— and then He says:

42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,

43 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.'

— they also are sort of confused, they're going to say:

44 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?' 45 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.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

— MATTHEW 25:41-46 (ESV)

Understand we live in a world where Hell for most people is something for like the... there's always this discussion, you know, these really bad people, you know, and then they'll say something like Hitler or something like that. No, the Scripture says Hell was prepared for the devil and His angels, it is a real place, it was not prepared for us. God wants us to be with Him, but we choose Hell. We choose to say, "I don't believe what You've just told me." And that's why it says at the end of the day there is a back and forth, a response. It doesn't matter what we look like, no matter where we've been or where, how often we show up here, how much money we give, or how faithful we are. It all comes down to what we've done with Jesus.

I tell you this because if you sit in this room today and for some reason you have not made it right with Jesus, I just tell you listen to Jesus here. Hell is real. It was not made for you, but if you don't put your trust in Him you'll spend eternity there. And some people say, "Well, I'm not sure about that." It says for those who have put their trust in Jesus are spending eternity in Heaven. It's the last words that He says here, "*but the righteous into eternal life.*" And the next verse in Chapter 26 He just keeps on, it says:

1 When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples,

— MATTHEW 26:1 (ESV)

And it begins to move into the story of the cross and what happens, He moves right into that scene. Jesus in His final words before He begins to move down that path, He's saying be among the righteous, the one who has put your trust in Jesus. Hell is real. He doesn't want you to go there. He didn't make it for you. He went to the cross so you wouldn't have to go there.

I beg of you, if you've never made that decision Jesus has given you one more chance this morning to do that. Like with the whole Noah story, we never know when that door is getting closed and it's too late, when you'll never get another opportunity. And I want to beg you this morning, I think some of us do not see how horrible Hell is and so we go yeah, you know what, that friend/that neighbor/that relative/

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that kid, I'm bugged that they don't, haven't made that decision, but it is what it is. I beg of you, if you have a child that doesn't know Jesus, if you have a parent that doesn't know Jesus, if you're working with someone that doesn't know Jesus, would you pray, pray, pray, pray for them? Would you tell them, tell them, tell them? Well, it might make them mad. Well, what do you want – mad now or in Hell for eternity? You pray for them and God's Spirit begins to move in their heart, God can change things. Let God change things. Transform it.

I gotta tell you something, I just want you all to hear this. If you're watching online maybe you see it happening, I see what's happening. Last hour at this time it happened, when I started talking about Hell the screen behind me went nuts. I'm not joking. And I just see right now it went nuts and blanked out. All of Hell fights what we're talking about here this morning, it's one of the reasons I actually – if you see what I see sitting in where I sit – I just go are you kidding me? There's a battle against this message. If you don't know Jesus, you're at risk this morning. Trust Him.

And Christian, you do know Jesus, if you haven't been taking this much serious and you just go like, "Yeah, yeah, whatever," oh, please listen to Jesus here. Let's, as a church, get passionate about Jesus. Let's start looking for Him. This series is over now, we'll go into another series, but Jesus, this is a discipleship moment, this is a moment of disciple conversation. For those who are followers of Jesus, keep your eyes open for His return, talk about it, say it often, come quickly, Jesus. He says to say that. Amen. He's coming quickly. Amen. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Watch for His return, talk about His return, tell about it often. Know that we are in a desperate moment where time is short. He could come back at any moment and that door goes shut. Trust in Jesus. Please.

Lord Jesus,

I ask that your Spirit would move across this room, would move through the airways, would move through living rooms and kitchens and bathrooms wherever this is being played or replayed or heard. Lord, would your Spirit move to hearts and lives and let them know that they have to decide? Lord God, for those who have never put their trust in You, I pray right now they'd say, "God, I'm a sinner, I repent of my sin, I turn from it. I love You. I want to follow You. Save me." And Lord, for those who have already made that decision we go, "No, I'm not going to be a lukewarm Christian. I'm not going to just sort of bounce along the bottom. I'm going to put my eyes on You and I'm going to trust in You. I'm going to use this one life to make a difference." God, light up our church on fire for You, Lord. We're tired of just sitting in a "rich area" just doing our thing. Lord God, we want to be bold, we want to step out in faith, we want to make our lives count for these few days that we have left. And whether we have to go through tough times or whether we get blessed and we don't have that kind of thing, Lord Jesus, may we use every moment, every day passionate for You. You gave your life for us. We love You. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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