

WE MUST CARE FOR OTHERS

Jesus told a very important story. Jesus said that at the end of the world he would sit upon a throne. He would be the king and the judge who decides which people have done God's work, and which have not. When he told this story he used the word, "sheep" to mean the good people, and "goats" to mean those who did not do God's will.

"The King called the sheep and the goats before him. He said to the sheep, 'Come to me! To you belongs the kingdom, 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 visit me.'

"The sheep, the good ones, will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?'

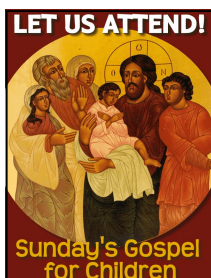
"The King will answer them, 'You cared for a poor person who was hungry, or naked. This is what I want everyone to do. When you help one another, especially those who are in great need, you are helping me. My sheep, come and be with me forever, and share in my glory.' To the goats that did not care for the poor and needy, he said, "get out of my sight, you can not come into the kingdom."



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. When Jesus told this story, he used two kinds of animals to teach a lesson. What animals did he choose?
2. Which of the animals did God welcome into His kingdom?
3. What did they do that pleased God?
4. God wants us to help those in need. Did you ever . . .
 - open the door for someone?
 - help someone who was hurt on the playground?
 - bring in food for a food drive?
 - play with someone who was all alone?
5. Jesus wants us to be helpful and caring, so we can be like Him.



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Pre-12



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GOD SAYS, “CARE FOR OTHERS!”

One day, our Lord Jesus Christ told about a time that is coming. He said that at the end of the world, He will come back and sit on a throne. It will be full of glory, and all the holy angels will be with Him!

Then everyone from the whole world will come together there. Our Lord Jesus will divide everyone into groups, just like a shepherd separates out sheep and goats.

Our Lord said that the good people will get God’s Kingdom! They have fed hungry people, given drinks to thirsty people, been friendly to people they didn’t know, given clothes to people who didn’t have enough, visited sick people, and gone to see prisoners. Our Lord said that, when the good people do these things to other people, they do it to Him.

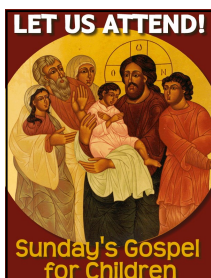
Then He said a sad thing. He said that the people who do not help others around them will need to go away from Him. They will go into fire with the devil. Because they did not help others they did not help our Lord. So they will be punished, but the good people will live forever with God!



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. When Jesus told this story, He told about when He will come back. He said that He will divide everyone into two groups, just like when a shepherd separates what two animals?
2. Which kind of people did God welcome into His kingdom?
3. What did they do that pleased God?
4. God wants us to help those in need. Did you ever . . .
 - open the door for someone?
 - help someone who was hurt on the playground?
 - bring in food for a food drive?
 - play with someone who was all alone?
5. Jesus wants us to be helpful and caring, so we can be with Him forever.



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HOW TO FIND HEAVEN

The Lord said, “When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left.

“Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of 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.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’

“Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 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.’

“Then they also will answer, ‘Lord when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”



Photo courtesy of iocc.org

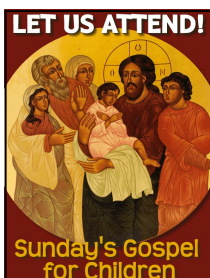
What is IOCC?

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What will the king say to those on his right hand?
2. What does this statement tell us righteous actions are?
3. What does the word righteous mean?
4. Who do these righteous actions serve?
5. What does this tell us about how Christians should live?
6. What one action can you do to be like the righteous ones in this Gospel?



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HOW TO FIND HEAVEN

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, King, Righteous Ones, Those on the Left

Narrator: The Lord said,

Jesus: When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left.

Then the King will say to those at his right hand,

King: Come, O blessed of 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.

Jesus: Then the righteous will answer him,

Righteous: Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in

Jesus: And the King will answer them,

King: Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.

Jesus: Then he will say to those at his left hand,

King: Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 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.

Jesus: Then they also will answer,

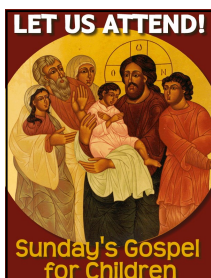
Those on the Left:

Lord when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?

Jesus: Then he will answer them,

King: Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.

Jesus: And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.



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HOW TO GET TO HEAVEN

The Lord said, “When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left.

“Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of 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.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe



Photo courtesy of iocc.org

thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’

“Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 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.’

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not minister to thee?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

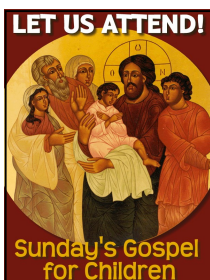
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What actions did the righteous ones do in this gospel?
2. Who were they caring for without knowing it?
3. What does this suggest about our own actions? Do you think that is fair?
4. Why do you think the church has us read this gospel before lent starts? What is this gospel suggesting we focus our efforts on during this lent?
5. What is one thing you can do this Lent to imitate the righteous ones in this gospel?



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AS YOU DID TO ONE OF THE LEAST...

The Lord said, “When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left.

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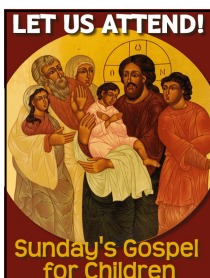
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2. Who were they caring for without knowing it?
3. What does this suggest about our own actions?
4. Why do you think the church has us read this gospel before Lent starts? What is this gospel suggesting we focus our efforts on during this lent?
5. How do you think fasting fits into this picture of lent, if at all?
6. What can you do this Lent to imitate the righteous ones in this gospel? (Hint, visit IOCC.org for ideas.)



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