

JESUS WANTS US TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

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?'

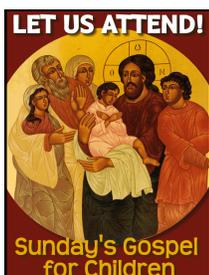
"The King will answer them, 'You cared for a poor person who was hungry, or naked. This is what I want everyone to do. When you help one another, especially those who are in great need, you are helping me. My sheep, come and be with me forever, and share in my glory.' To the goats that did not care for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

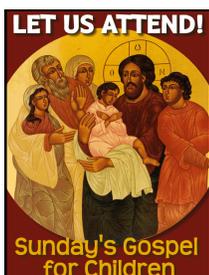
Then He said a sad thing. He said that the people who do not help others around them will need to go away from Him. They will go into fire with the devil. Because they did not help others they did not help our Lord. So they will be punished, but the good people will live forever with God!



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Where will our Lord Jesus sit, at the end of the world? What will it be like?
2. Who will come to Him there?
3. What will He divide them into?
4. What will the good people get?
5. Can you tell one thing that good people do to others?
6. What sad thing happens to the people who do not help others?
7. You can help our Lord! You can be kind to your brother or sister. You can give some of your toys to children who don't have toys. You can help your mom and dad. You can make friends with someone new. How will you help Jesus today?



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GOD WANTS US TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

The Lord said, “When the Son of man comes in all 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.’

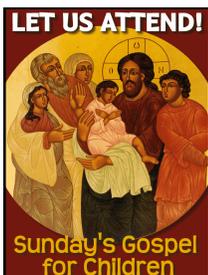
“Then they also will answer, ‘Lord when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ And they will go away into eternal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



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Can you imagine Jesus coming in all His glory, with all the holy angels with Him? What do you think that will be like?
2. Why do you think our Lord used the example of a shepherd separating sheep from goats for His illustration?
3. What will the King say to the “sheep” on His right?
4. What will He say to the “goats” at His left hand?
5. The righteous people in this Gospel are those who have done what our Lord Jesus did when He was on Earth: fed and clothed the needy, cared for the sick, visited the imprisoned. Who did our Lord say they were really doing these things to?
6. What about you? Which group would you like Jesus to put you into? Are you treating people around you the way our Lord Jesus would? Look for opportunities to help others, because when you do, you’re helping God!



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GOD WANTS US TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

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,

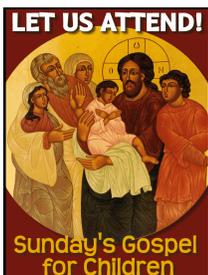
Those on the Left:

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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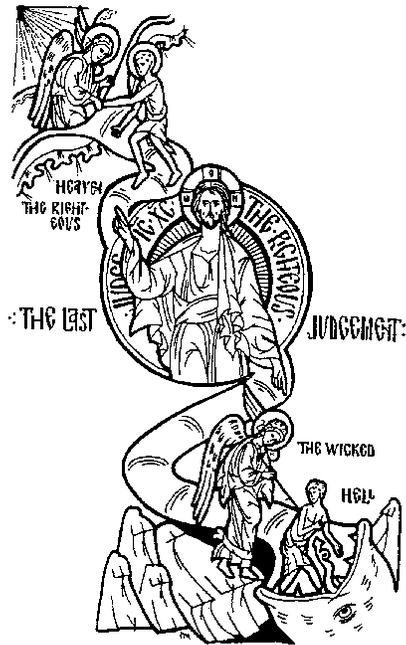
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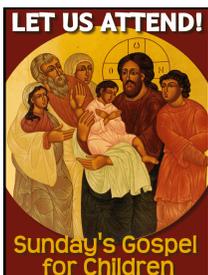


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“Then they also will answer, ‘Lord when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you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

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does today's Gospel say about the coming of the Son of Man?
2. What does it say about His kingship?
3. What does it say about how He relates to the nations?
4. Jesus called himself the Son of Man. What does that mean He was saying about himself?
5. Why does this matter?



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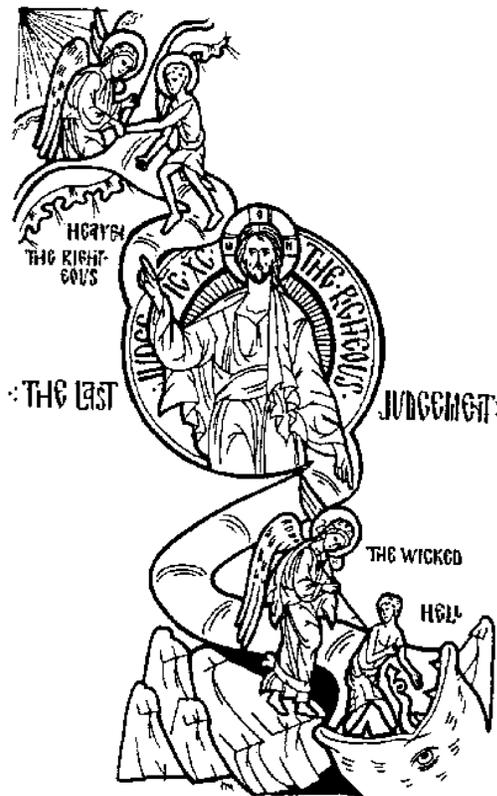
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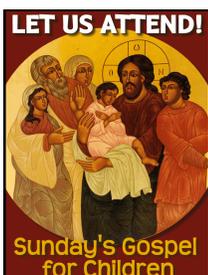
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drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Read Daniel 7:13-14 where the Son of Man is described.
2. What does today's Gospel say about the coming of the Son of Man? About his kingship? About how he relates to the nations?
3. How are these two descriptions similar? How are they different?
4. Who claimed to be this Son of Man?
5. What was He saying about himself by saying He is the Son of Man?
6. Why is this an important claim?



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