

Sheep and Goats  
Matthew 25:31-46

Review:

1. Our salvation is based solely on our relationship to Christ
2. Our relationship with Christ will invariably lead us to actions that express our love for others
3. Our relationship with Christ is inseparable from our relationship to His people – it is simply not possible to be a lone Christian, loving Christ while holding His Church at arm's length

Reflect:

1. In what concrete ways do you show your love for those who are in need? How can you increase this kind of support?
2. In what ways can you increase your support for fellow Christians? Do you have any conflicts with other members of the Church that need to be settled? What steps can you take to do that?

Go further: Read John 10:1-30

1. Jesus contrasts Himself as the Good Shepherd with those who are thieves and robbers. What does He say the robbers do in verse 1?
2. What contrast does Jesus make between robbers and true shepherds in verse 2?
3. In Jesus' time, lots of shepherds would keep their sheep in a communal pen for the night, sorting them out in the morning when taking them to pasture. In verses 2-4, how does Jesus say a true shepherd draws his sheep to follow him?
4. Why does Jesus say the sheep will not follow a stranger in verse 5? How does verse 8 describe those whom the sheep will not follow?
5. In verses 7 and 9, how does Jesus describe Himself?
6. In those days, a shepherd would often lie down across the opening of a sheepfold at night. What claim is Jesus making about Himself by saying, "I am the door"?
7. In verse 10, how does Jesus compare His motives to those of false shepherds? How do His motives attract His sheep to follow Him?
8. In verses 11-13, Jesus compares his actions with those of the false shepherds. How does He explain this difference, and how do His actions attract His sheep to follow Him?
9. In verses 14-15, how does Jesus describe His relationship with His sheep? How does He describe His relationship with His Father?
10. In verses 17-18, how does Jesus say He obeys His Father, and earns His love?
11. In verses 19-24, many of the Jews refuse to believe in Jesus. Why does Jesus say this is the case in verse 26?
12. Read Jesus' promise to His sheep in verses 27-29. Who is ultimately responsible for our salvation?

Summary and Application:

1. How does Christ's love for you as your Good Shepherd inspire you to love Him? How does it inspire you to love other Christians? In what ways can you express both kinds of love?

