

The Unconscious Test

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 25:31-46.
- B. The judgment of the sheep and goats is not a parable, but a fact.
- C. This judgment is not the same as the Great White Throne judgment in Revelation.
- D. This refers to the judgment of the Gentiles.
- E. This judgment is a determination of who will enter into the Millennial Kingdom.
- F. This is a judgment of professing Christians to see who among them is authentic.

II. Authority of the King.

- A. When Jesus sits on His throne all the nations will bow down before Him.
- B. The Lord's dominion is everlasting.

III. The explanation of the King.

- A. The ultimate mark of a member of the kingdom is his practical demonstration of love.
- B. Jesus is forever identifying Himself with those in need.

IV. The response He receives.

- A. There is genuine surprise on behalf of those who did good and those who neglected to do good.
- B. For the "sheep," there is surprise because their service was joy.
- C. The "goats" are also surprised because they have long lists of all the "good" that they did, but they failed to help the needy in their pride.
- D. The Lord tells these to depart because the "good deeds" were never the unconscious automatic response of the heart indwelt by Jesus Christ.
 - 1. God's judgments take place during the off guard moments that we are unaware.
 - 2. The test is not our actions but our reactions.
- E. What we are must be what He demands.
 - 1. Only the life of Jesus Christ can meet that need within a person through the new birth.

2. One must yield and accept Christ.

Application questions:

1. Have you ever found out that you did some good in hindsight that you did not realize at the time? What was your reaction?

2. Why will many who did good deeds outwardly be surprised at the judgment?

3. Why do you think that Jesus identifies Himself so closely with the needy in this passage? Explain.
