



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast

April 6, 2025

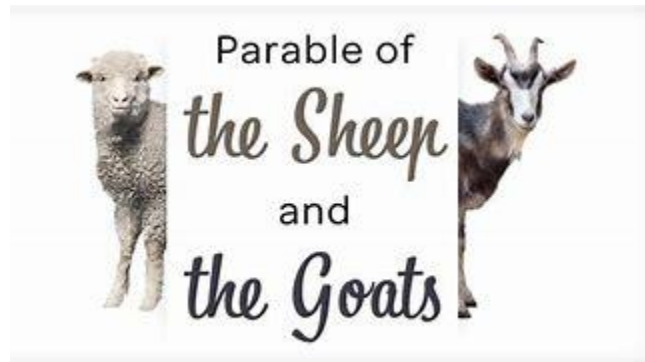
“The Sheep and the Goats, Matthew 25:31-46”

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats...” (Matthew 25:31-32, NRSVUE)

For the last several months I have been writing short reflections on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12, and, starting this week, I'll write some short reflections on the Parable of the Sheep and Goats in Matthew 25:31-46.

The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

has long been understood as a vivid depiction of the final judgment, where the Son of Man, in his glory, separates the righteous from the unrighteous. The sheep, those who have cared for the hungry, the sick, the stranger, and the imprisoned, are welcomed into the kingdom of heaven, while the goats, who failed to show compassion, are sent away into eternal punishment. This



passage has often been interpreted as a clear call to Christian charity, emphasizing the importance of serving others as a reflection of our faith. It reminds us that love is not merely an abstract ideal, but a lived reality expressed through tangible acts of kindness.

However, as we look more closely at the parable, we may notice some surprises. For instance, why is everyone—both the sheep and the goats—surprised by the judgment of the Son of Man? We will look at some of those surprises in the upcoming weeks.

This is in preparation for looking at both **the Beatitudes and “The Sheep and the Goats” as bookends**, setting up for us a place where we find clear guidance on what it means to live as followers of Christ. Christians from every denomination are united by a common call: to follow Jesus faithfully, grow in His likeness, and share His love with the world. These passages offer a roadmap for aligning our lives with God's Kingdom.

Take a read through Matthew 25:31-46 this week. I welcome your thoughts as we make this journey together! God's Peace, Vance

Prayer box: Let us pray for comfort and healing for Bruce, Patti, John H., Holland, Steve, Debbie, John C., Lynn, Vance and Maggie. Let us give thanks for healing, especially Joyce. Let us pray for the souls of our departed friends and family members, and those who mourn for them. Pray for those suffering from natural disasters. Let us pray for all churches seeking pastors. Let us also pray for a deeper understanding of Scripture. Lord, hear our prayers!