



A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- ♦ **Matthew 25:31** When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
- ♦ **25:32** And before him shall be gathered **all nations**: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [*his*] sheep from the goats:
- ♦ **25:33** And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

- **Matthew 25:34**

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

- **25:35** For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:
- **25:36** Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

- You remember scavenger hunts we used to do when we were teenagers.
- At the beginning of the hunt you're given a list of things you have to accumulate.
- The first group back with all the items wins.
  - When you return, the leader checks off each item to make sure you've gotten everything that was needed.

- Is that the way it's going to be on the final day of judgment?
- The Son of Man, Jesus says, will be seated on the throne of glory and will gather all the nations of people before him.
- Then, he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates sheep from goats.

- “Let’s see... yes, you once gave food to a hungry person.
  - Check.
- There was the time you gave a drink of water to the thirsty.
  - Check.
  - Visited a jail?
    - Check.
- Gave a meal to a stranger?
  - Check

- Is that the way  
it's going to be?
- Will we get credit in heaven  
for clothing the naked if we  
give our old stuff to Goodwill  
only for the tax deduction, or  
just to get it out of the house?
  - Does that count?

- And what if we help someone solely out of guilt or just to get them to go away?

- Have you ever given a beggar some money just so he will leave?



- Is once enough,  
or do we have to do it  
over and over and over again?
- Because, just as you  
finish giving food  
to a hungry person  
another hungry person  
comes to your door.
- Word gets around, you know.

- There's a network out there.
- You begin to realize that the more you help the more there are who come to your door.

- The task becomes overwhelming, like after a hurricane.
- After all, even Jesus said *the poor you will have with you always.*  
(Matthew 26:11)

- Can you feed one hungry person and make it into heaven?
- Or toss a quarter in a cup of some needy person on the street.

- “There!

There’s my good deed  
for the day,

- That’s my ticket  
to eternity.

- Are you feeling guilty, yet?

- A lot of you, like me,  
grew up in church  
**on a steady diet of guilt.**

- I still remember  
the evangelists  
who would  
**preach week-long revivals.**

- They could lay on the guilt so thick there wouldn't be a person in the house who wasn't uncomfortable.

- You could see people who had been Christians for a hundred years stand there during the hymn of invitation **gripping the back of the pew** until their knuckles were white with the tension.



- Conviction,  
we called it....
  - We sang  
“Just As I Am”
    - all fifty verses
    - over and over again until  
the congregation was  
absolutely milked dry.

- Well, sometimes it seems these evangelists have got nothing on Jesus.
  - This parable is an example.
  - Talk about guilt!
- Jesus lays it on thick.

- This parable is entirely different from most stories Jesus told.
- It stands out from the rest.
- It is the guilt parable.

- We much prefer the stories he told that speak of grace and the kindness.
  - We like the
    - prodigal son,
    - the good Samaritan and parables like that.

- But **we know** that...
  - when it comes to feeding the **hungry**,
- giving a drink to the **thirsty**
- and clothes to the **naked**,
- welcoming **strangers**,

- visiting the sick and imprisoned,
- we're not in familiar territory.
  - That's not on our daily to-do lists.
- So how do we reconcile what Jesus is saying here?

- **John 5:1**

**After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.**

- **5:2 Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.**

- **John 5:3**

**In these lay  
a great multitude  
of impotent folk, of  
blind, halt, withered,  
waiting for the moving  
of the water.**

- **5:5 And a certain man was there,  
which had an infirmity  
thirty and eight years.**



- **John 5:3**

**Many** sick, blind, lame, and crippled people were lying close to the pool. (CEV)

- **My question is**

**“Why didn’t Jesus follow his own advice?”**

- Why not **heal all** the blind, lame, crippled people?

- I believe there is a **grave misunderstanding** of this verse.
- A denominational group in Fletcher is adding an addition to their church building **to feed the needy.**
- Is this what Jesus is **demanding?**

- Are we required to build soup kitchens, hospitals, etc.  
in order to meet  
His requirements?
- Why didn't Jesus heal ALL  
the sick, blind, etc. while he  
was on the earth?

- The answer is that His mission was about something greater.

- John 5:14

*Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.*

- Again, this section of scripture **has been taken out of context.**
- Remember, that beginning in **Ch. 23** Jesus condemns the **scribes** and **Pharisees.**
  - He also places **a curse** **upon Jerusalem for** their treatment of His prophets.
  - That “**curse**” was fulfilled in **Ch. 24** with the **destruction of Jerusalem.**

- Is Christ teaching his disciples to conceive of ...
- The destruction of Jerusalem,
- As emblematic of his final appearance to judgment?
- Appears to me to be a logical conclusion.

- **Matthew 24:29**

- **Immediately**

- **after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened,**

- **and the moon shall not give her light,**

- **and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:**

- **Matthew 24:30**

And then shall appear the **sign** of the **Son of man** in heaven:

- and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the **Son of man** coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.
- **:31** And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.



- It sounds as if Matthew is talking about the end of the world.
- But Luke 21 states he is talking about the coming of the kingdom.
- Let us look at the Lesson of the Fig Tree in Luke 21.

- **The Lesson of the Fig Tree**
- **Luke 21:29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;**
- **21:30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.**

- **The Lesson of the Fig Tree**

- **Luke 21:29**

Then Jesus used this story as an illustration.

"Look at the **fig tree** or any other tree.

- **:30** As soon as leaves grow on them, you know without being told that **summer** is near.

(**GW**)

- **The Lesson of the Fig Tree**
- **Luke 21:31** In the same way, when you see these things happen, you know that the **kingdom of God is near.**
- **32** "I can guarantee this truth: **This generation** will not disappear until all this takes place.  
(GWV)

- Be sure to read **Luke 21** before coming to any conclusions:
- Is Jesus talking about the **destruction of Jerusalem?**
- Or is he talking about the **end of the world?**

- **“Son of Man”**

Occurs in Matthew

**32 times,**

- Mark **15** times,
- Luke **26** times,
- John **12** times.

- **“Son of Man”**

is often used in scripture **with the idea of judgment** and **not** specifically to Jesus himself.

- **“Son of Man”**

is used some **93 times** in Ezekiel.

- In Matthew 24:30

“Son of Man”

is a term used in reference to  
the destruction of  
Jerusalem,

- The sign of his coming was found in the fulfillment of these predictions.



- That fulfillment was as if Jesus himself was carrying out the destruction of Jerusalem.
- In fact it was not Jesus but Rome that destroyed Jerusalem.

- The scene in **Matthew 25:32** depicts the “**nations**” being brought before Jesus.

- Note that it is the “**nations**” being judged, **not disciples.**

- **Question:**

How are these “**nations**”  
to be judged?

- **Answer:**

They are judged  
based upon their **treatment**  
of God’s people.

- Those that showed mercy and kindness to His people are **blessed**.
- Those that did not are **condemned**.

- Has not  
Jerusalem  
been punished  
for its treatment  
of the “prophets”?

- Lament over Jerusalem

- Matthew 23:37

**Jerusalem, Jerusalem!**

**Your people have killed the prophets  
and have stoned the messengers  
who were sent to you. I have often  
wanted to gather your people, as a hen  
gathers her chicks under her wings.  
But you wouldn't let me.**

- 23:38 **And now your temple  
will be deserted.**

- The day of your mercy is gone by.
  - I have offered you protection and salvation,
  - You have rejected it.
  - You are about to crucify me,
  - And your temple to be destroyed,
- And you, as a nation, to be given up to long and dreadful suffering.
- All of this allowed by the “Son of Man”.

- **Genesis 15:13**

The LORD said to him, (Abraham)  
"Your descendants will be strangers  
in a foreign land; they will be slaves  
there and will be treated cruelly for  
four hundred years.

- **15:14** But I will punish the nation  
that enslaves them, and when they  
leave that foreign land, they will take  
great wealth with them.

- **Genesis 15:15**

You yourself will live to a ripe old age, die in peace, and be buried.

- **15:16** It will be four generations before your descendants come back here,
  - Because...
  - **Because what?**



- Genesis 15:16

because

- I will not drive out  
the Amorites

- until they become so wicked

- that they must be punished."

(GNB)

- THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS AS FOUND  
IN THE BOOK OF JOEL...

- The coming day of the Lord  
is depicted

- Joel 1:15

For the day of the LORD  
is at hand, and as a  
destruction from the  
Almighty shall it come.

- **THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS AS FOUND IN THE BOOK OF JOEL...**
  - [A great and terrible day is coming.](#)
  - [Joel 2:30](#) **And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.**
  - [2:31](#) **The [sun](#) shall be turned into darkness, and the [moon](#) into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.**

- A "judgment of the nations"  
is then described

- Joel 3:2

I will gather all the nations and  
bring them to the  
Valley of Judgment.

- There I will judge them  
for all they have done  
to my people...

- **Joel 3:12** There I, the LORD,  
**will sit to judge all**  
**the surrounding nations.**
- **:13** They are very wicked;  
**cut them down**
- **like grain at harvest time;**
  - **crush them as grapes**  
**are crushed in**  
**a full wine press**  
**until the wine runs over.**

- Joel 3:14

**Thousands and thousands are  
in the Valley of Judgment.**

- **It is there that the  
day of the LORD  
will soon come.**
- **:15 The sun and  
the moon grow dark,**
  - **and the stars  
no longer shine.**

- **Joel 3:16**
- **The LORD roars  
from Mount Zion;**
- **his voice thunders  
from Jerusalem;  
earth and sky tremble.**
  - **But he will  
defend his people.**

- **Judgment** is a common theme in the scriptures.
- God describes judgment to come, **using other nations as examples of His wrath.**
  - He also holds the nations **accountable** for how His people are treated.



- For example...

- Assyria, the rod of God's anger  
(Isaiah 10:5-7, 12-14, 24-26)
- Damascus, Gaza, Tyre,  
Edom, Ammon  
(Amos 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 13)

- In the Book of Revelation, we see how Jesus dealt with the Roman empire,
  - Using her as His instrument of wrath in destroying Jerusalem,
  - And then Rome the object of wrath in its own judgment.

- This in no wise waters down our **responsibilities as Christians.**

- **Galatians 6:10**

**As we have therefore  
opportunity,**

**let us do good unto all men,  
especially unto them who are of  
the household of faith.**

- **2Thessalonians 3:10**

**For even when  
we were with you,  
this we commanded you,  
that if any would  
not work,  
neither should he eat.**

- **This is not to say**  
we have no responsibility.

- There are to be  
**lessons learned**  
from the judgment  
of the nations

- THERE WILL BE  
**A DAY OF JUDGMENT.**

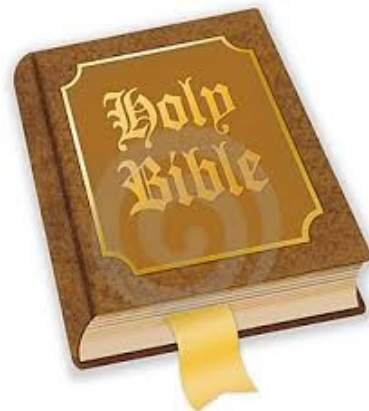
- Just as the Lord has judged nations throughout history
- He will judge the world at the end of time, at the Last Day

- Jesus, Paul, Peter,  
John and Jude  
often spoke of  
the Judgment
- Are we preparing for the  
Day of Judgment?

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**





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