

11. 22nd November 2020 – Christ the King – Hugh’s Sermon Notes

In The name of Our Creator, The Son Our Saviour and Redeemer
and the Triune Spirit Who is With Us Always

Notes

Let us look at what is going on, first, Jesus is talking to a small group of followers, And Matthew is talking to his community about the message, that Jesus has, this part of Matthew’s Gospel only appears In Matthew.

The followers had a many of questions, and ask Jesus

" Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and end of the age.

One thing is certain, according to Jesus, is that the Son of Man will come again ?

I have often wondered if Jesus is talking about himself or another person ?

In what Jesus is saying

“All the nations are gathered before the Son of Man.”

Matthew is telling you and I that creation will be judge.

And you and I will be Blessed by The One True God.

What Jesus is saying is very clear, all will be judged.

In Matthew 20:28 The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve.

So in the final judgement, it is clear that Jesus demanded nothing for himself.

Jesus expects you and I to serve him by serving the LEAST OF THESE.

This teaching is a fitting conclusion not only to the discourse about the end of age, but to all of Jesus’ teachings in Matthew Gospel, much of which is concerned with righteousness .

In the sermon on the Mount Jesus said that

‘unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter heaven’.

In is clear that righteousness is not about the letter of the law, but about the Spirit or the true intent of the law.

In the final judgement, those who are at the right hand of the Son of Man are called righteous.

It is not because of their superior knowledge of the Torah or exceptional spiritual gifts that they are called righteous, rather, it is the mercy and compassion that they have shown to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked and the sick, and imprisoned.

In Matthews Gospel Jesus tells us, you and I, time after time,

‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me’.

Matthew goes on in the reading of his Gospel that they who reject the Son of Man are to be sent to eternal punishment. I do not accept part of Matthew Gospel, I believe our GOD is a loving God, and God's Grace is for all.

Matthew is talking to his community about The Kingdom.

I believe the kingdom is our inheritance, a gift, not something earned.

Moreover, the righteous are unaware of what they have done

“Lord when did we see you hungry”?

They have not been acting in some calculated way to earn God's favour.

They have simply been doing what comes naturally for them in caring for their neighbours in need.

Their actions are a sign of their strong relationship with a loving and merciful God, as Jesus has said I came to serve not to be served.

But what about those who did not listen to Jesus and are left surprised to learn that they encountered him in the lowly and needy, and poor.

They too have simply been doing what comes naturally, looking out for their own interests and not bothered with the needs of others. Their relationship with The One True God does not exist and they do not understand why Jesus is with them and what he is saying to them. What is Matthew trying to tell you and I that Jesus is telling his followers that the Passion story is about to begin?

These words of Jesus, identifying himself with the world's outcasts, come immediately before the narrative of his own betrayal, arrest, torture.

There are times in the life of the clergy when we are wary to talk about judgement.

The parable of the sheep and goats can be difficult to preach for those who are wary of talking about judgment.

Yet if there were no judgment, it would mean that our God did not care about the injustice and suffering in our world.

But my brothers and sisters God does care.

I believe, God cares for the creation, especially for the followers of his Son.

To judge or to be judged, you and I make our confession every Sunday when we say our creeds. He will come again to judge the living and the dead, this is good news for all victims of injustice, for all who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

As we pray today and every other day

the Triune Spirit is always with you and I

by God's GRACE.