



Warm up question:

- Have you ever met identical twins? How did you tell them apart?

Read Matthew 25:31-33

1. What is the context of this passage? How does it follow on from the previous two weeks?
2. What is the significance of Jesus referring to himself as the Son of Man? (see Daniel 7:13-14)
3. What is the significance of Jesus gathering all nations?
4. Why would a shepherd need to separate sheep from goats?
5. What do you think Jesus means by referring to people as either sheep or goats? Who are the two groups?

Read Ezekiel 34:11-16

6. What does the shepherd promise to do?
7. How does this passage parallel what you have just read in Matthew 25:31-33?

Read Matthew 34-46

8. How will Jesus know be able to tell the difference between the sheep and the goats?
9. What are the eternal implications for being a sheep?
10. What are the eternal implications for being a goat?
11. Remembering that what Jesus is saying is in the context of Matthew 25...
What do you think Jesus is trying to emphasise? Does this mean that good works get us into heaven?
12. How can we understand Jesus as both the good and gracious King who leads people into eternal life, and at the same time being the Righteous Judge who sends people into eternal judgement?
13. What else stands out to you in this passage?

Rubber hits the road:

- What does it look like for you to be a sheep that is under the Good Shepherd's care this week?
- How will you stay ready as you await the coming of King Jesus?

PRAYER

King Jesus, our Righteous Judge, we praise you – for you are mighty and have all authority over heaven and earth. We thank you that you declare us righteous and bring us into your kingdom. While we wait for you, we thank you for loving us and for leading us as a shepherd cares for and leads his sheep. We pray that you would keep us close so that we might serve you and bring many others with us when you return in glory. Amen.

