

Lesson 4

The Parable of the Sheep & the Goats

What story do these pictures tell?



Starter Task: Look at the pictures above. What do they tell us about the world, and the way some people are treated?

Watch this clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWsCNPEwdxM>

As you watch, think about whether you agree with the Gladiator.

Does what we do on earth echo in eternity?

Explain your answer.



Remember that a parable is one of the ways Jesus used to teach people. They are stories with meaning. This lesson is looking at the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats.

Read the parable of the Sheep and the Goats.

31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to

drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'


46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Answer the questions in full sentences.

1. Who is the Son of Man?
2. Who is the Father?
3. What does the term righteous mean? Use a dictionary/internet write down a definition.
4. What do you think eternal punishment and eternal life looks like?

Now look at this passage and make a table with goats on one side and sheep on the other.

List what each did or didn't do.

The bad/unrighteous	The Good/righteous
GOATS 	SHEEP
Goats	Sheep

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The key teachings of this parable:

- At the end of the world God will judge people on their behaviour & the choices they have made.
- God will separate the good from the bad like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
- On his right will be the good (sheep). They will be with him in heaven.
- On his left will be the bad (goats). They will be sent away from him to hell.
- God judges us on how we treat our fellow humans. As we are all created in His image.

Explain two teachings found in the Parable of the sheep and goats. [4 marks]

Use the sentence starters below.

One teaching found in the Parable of Sheep and Goats is...

This means...

The second teaching found in the parable of the Sheep & Goats is...

This means...

Some argue that this is a parable for believers only – both sheep and goats refer to the King as Lord. This challenges idea that anyone who gives to the poor will be saved. You must believe first and then act on it. Failure to act means you don't really believe.

Some argue that the parable isn't saying that giving to the poor saves us. Instead, it is faith first, hence they were already His sheep and had not become sheep by giving.

Answer the following questions.

1. What can I do to be saved?
2. How good is good enough to be saved?
3. Is giving done to attain salvation a good enough reason?
4. Does knowing Jesus save us?
5. Can good people from other beliefs or none be saved?

To what extent do the things we do while alive make a difference to what happens after we die?

Answer these questions in full sentences:

1. Do you agree with Maximus the Gladiator? Explain your answer.
2. Would a Christian be likely to agree with Maximus? Why?



Use these sentence starters to help you.

- I think that a Christian would agree /disagree...
- A Christian would agree with the statement because the parable of the sheep and goats explains that...