



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

31 OCT 2021 | LET OUR FAITH BE REAL! | MATTHEW 25:31-46

Series : Jesus is Coming Back (Pt 5/5) | Speaker : Pastor Lionel Goh



WELCOME

[15 MINS]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)



WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. Blessed Assurance (My King is Coming)
 2. Reward
 3. Revelation Song
-



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand that salvation is based on our faith in Christ.
2. Recognise that good deeds are the fruits of this real faith.
3. Respond by living out our faith by loving and caring for the needy.

SERMON SUMMARY

When Jesus returns to set up His Millennial Kingdom, He will separate the survivors of the Tribulation as “Goats” and “Sheep”. The Parable of the Goats and Sheep seems to teach that salvation comes from doing kind deeds to needy people. However, when we examine the Bible text deeper, we begin to understand that the Sheep are saved based on their faith in Christ, and their good deeds to the brethren are the fruits of this real faith. The Sheep are blessed and allowed to inherit His Kingdom, whereas the Goats are unbelievers who reject the Gospel and have no capacity to love and care for the needy. They are excluded from the Kingdom because of their disbelief of the Gospel.

Pastor Lionel Goh shared that Jesus is teaching us to live out our true faith in the light of End Times by loving and caring for the needy in our midst.

SERMON RECAP

1. Judgement of Sheep and Goats ([Matthew 25:31-46](#))

When Jesus returns to set up His Millennial Kingdom, He will separate the survivors of the Tribulation as “Goats” and “Sheep”. Pastor Lionel Goh taught that this Sheep and Goat Judgement is not the Great White Throne Judgement which would happen after Satan’s defeat at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. The purpose of the judgement, which applies to all survivors of the Tribulation, is to decide who will live with Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom.

2. Does this parable teach that salvation comes by works? `

- a. Are the Sheep saved by their kind acts? (v 34-36)
- b. Are the Goats condemned by their neglect? (v 41-43)

The Parable of the Goats and Sheep seems to teach that salvation comes from doing kind deeds to needy people. However, when we examine the Bible text deeper, we begin to understand that the Sheep are saved based on their faith in Christ, and their good deeds to the brethren are the fruits of this real faith. The Sheep are blessed and allowed to inherit His Kingdom, whereas the Goats are unbelievers who reject the Gospel and have no capacity to love and care for the needy. They are excluded from the Kingdom because of their disbelief of the Gospel.

3. Biblical Teaching: We are saved by grace through faith ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#), [Romans 10:9](#))

4. Who are these people in parable?

- a. Jesus’ Brothers and Sisters ([Mark 3:33-35](#), [Acts 9:3-5](#))
- b. The Sheep ([Deuteronomy 28:1-2](#), [Ephesians 1:3-5](#))
- c. The Goats ([Deuteronomy 28:15](#), [1 Corinthians 16:22](#), [John 3:16-18](#), [Revelation 21:8](#))

Anyone who does God’s will is Jesus’ brother or sister. Jesus is also not ashamed to call believers His brothers and sisters, and we have the same Father in heaven. Jesus’ Brothers and Sisters are believers who choose to obey God’s will during the Tribulation. Jesus identifies with His people!

The Sheep are believers, God’s blessed people, chosen to inherit His Kingdom from the creation of the world. During the Tribulation, these Sheep make great sacrifices to care for other suffering believers. By their kind and sacrificial deeds, they show that their faith and love are real.

The Goats are unbelievers who reject the Gospel during the Tribulation. They have no capacity to show compassion to Jesus’ brothers and sisters in times of great hardship! They are the cursed ones and are destined for eternal fire.

5. Gist of Parable: Jesus expects His Sheep to care for their fellow believers in times of needs ([James 2:14-17](#))

- The kind acts of the Sheep show their faith to be genuine!

6. **Another Expectation of God: That we help our needy neighbours** ([Proverbs 3:27-28](#))

7. **Practical Application:**

- Community Outreach Initiatives
- Our Suffering Brothers Overseas

Let's show our faith to be real by loving others practically. Pastor Lionel Goh encouraged us to prayerfully consider and respond in faith to serve in various initiatives in community outreach and missions. Jesus is teaching us to live out our true faith in the light of End Times by loving and caring for the needy in our midst.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read [Matthew 25:31-46](#). What is the basis for people to be separated as Sheep and Goats? [15 Mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a recap question. Matthew 25:31-46 tells of what will happen at the end of the Great Tribulation. Jesus, the Messianic King, will judge at David's Throne in Jerusalem, deciding who will live with Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom and who will not.

The passage teaches that this judgement is certainly to come. The righteous will be separated from the wicked. It does not teach that salvation is by works. The Sheep is called "blessed of My Father" as they are favoured by God through grace and will receive the inheritance of the Kingdom. Jesus identifies Himself with those in need. The Sheep who inherit the Kingdom are those who have responded to the Gospel message by showing love and concern to the needy, and by ministering to them. The ultimate mark of an authentic Christian is not what he/she professes as faith but whether there is an outflow of God's love to those who are in need. This practical demonstration of love is the proof and the outworking of his/her saving faith!

For Further Reading: The Unconscious Test ([Link](#))

Transition

We are saved by faith in Jesus Christ – see [Galatians 2:21](#). The surprise of the Sheep in the passage with reference to their blessedness shows that they were not doing good works to be saved; they did the good works as a result of their salvation. It is impossible to supplement the saving work of Christ by the merit of our own obedience to the law; Christ has done everything, or He has done nothing for our salvation.

2. Re-read [Matthew 25:31-33](#). Unlike the other earlier parables in the book of Matthew, this parable starts with the fact of Jesus Christ's glorious return. In [Hebrews 9:27](#), it is written that "it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgement." These are unpopular and uncomfortable subjects to think or talk about. With the perspective of the Judgement of the Sheep and Goats, how ready are you for the Day of Judgement? [10 Mins]

Leader's Notes

This is a question for reflection on the subjects of death and judgment by God that we do not often talk about and many would actively seek to avoid discussing. Leaders can encourage members to assess their readiness to face Jesus Christ as Judge when He returns. Is our heart attitude more aligned to that of a Sheep? Is our faith an active one? Do we commune with God regularly to seek after His heart?

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened." - C.S. Lewis, [The Great Divorce](#)

For Further Reading: Two Final Things, Then Home At Last ([Link](#))

Transition

God calls us to be ready for Jesus' return. The parable of the Judgement of the Sheep and Goats points to the need for believers to develop real faith! The next question examines how faith can be practically expressed.

3. **Jesus identifies Himself especially with the needy – see [Matthew 25:40](#). Every time we neglect to help a brother or sister in need, we neglect Jesus Himself. Let us not forget to reach out to others as we are asked to. Who are the needy that God has placed in your life and what can you do to reach out to them?** [15 Mins]

Leader's Notes

A response question to apply what Pastor Lionel taught. The Cell can discuss in practical terms what each member or the Cell can do in the following areas of need:

- a. During the COVID pandemic, there are people in our families, workplaces and neighbourhoods who need help. We should be in constant lookout to help these needy people. Is there anyone God has touched your heart to reach out to help?
- b. As a Church, we have RiverLife Community Services, RiverLife Cares and Food Ministry that love and care for people in our neighbourhood. Is this an area where the members in the Cell or the Cell as a collective whole can commit to serve?
- c. There are great sufferings and needs among our brethren in the Missions Fields. As God's blessed people, we can pray and give generously to alleviate their pains. Is this an area where a cell member or the cell as a whole can commit to?

Closing

The Bible challenges us to put our faith into action. Jesus expects His Sheep to love and care for their fellow believers in times of need. Their kind acts show their faith to be genuine. God expects us to help our needy neighbours when we can do so. Let's show our faith to be real by loving others practically!



Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. **Sermon Application**

- We will be secure in our faith in Jesus Christ as the basis of our salvation.
- We will be on a constant lookout to help the needy people that God has placed in our lives.
- We will show our faith to be real by loving others practically.

2. **COVID-19 in Singapore**

- God's continual intervention as we extend the Stabilisation Phase.
- God's protection as we learn to live with COVID and begin to open up our borders.
- God's hand to alleviate the sufferings, and for practical help to arise and be rendered to these suffering communities, especially the old and the vulnerable.

3. **COVID-19 in the World**

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

- 1. New Pulpit Series - Rediscovering Church (Ephesians).** As we enter the month of November, we will embark on a new four-part sermon series entitled Rediscovering Church. The pandemic has disrupted the way we worship, relate and serve in church, and changed how our cells and ministries function. We hope that this sermon series, based on Ephesians 1 to 4, will help us realise the importance of belonging to community and receive fresh revelation on what it truly means to be the Church especially during such a time.
- 2. November Midweek Equipping - The Will of God vs. The Will of Man (The Calvinist-Arminian debate).** Our next midweek equipping series is a 3-part session starting the following Wednesday, on 10 November. The guest speaker will be David Lim, Academic Dean of Acts College.
- 3. In-Person Worship Services From 1-30 Nov.** In view of the extension made to the Stabilisation Period, our existing service timings will continue for another month until the end of Nov - there will only be one in-person service at 9am for English Adults on Sundays. The capacity remains at 300 congregants. Our Youth service will increase its capacity to 150 pax in-person.
- 4. Missions from Home.** What does Missions look like when we're unable to travel? We believe God is calling RiverLifers to sow continually and faithfully into the nations by partnering Him and adapting in the way we approach Missions. We have 104 RiverLifers who have signed up for 9 MFH teams, reaching out to India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand. Over the next few months, they will be collaborating with our Missions Partners to develop missions projects that provide prayer support, resources and raise awareness for their ministries. We encourage all to get involved by praying, giving, or serving. Find out more about the different countries we're working with: rlc.sg/mfh. Join a MFH team: rlc.sg/mfh-serve
- 5. Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
- 6. Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this *QR code* on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200100806D*.

2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: *DBS Autosave 029-902431-0*
Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



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Kindly indicate your NRIC No. under the Bill Reference to qualify for tax deduction.

