**“The King’s Prophecy: Working While Waiting”**

**Matt. 25:31-34; Dan. 7:13-14; Col. 3:1-3**

**(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 6/22/25)**

 Today’s scripture is the crescendo of Jesus’ teaching about the End of the Age. He tells us that one day He will return to this earth as our judging, reigning King. In judgment, He will separate His loyal subjects from His enemies, decisively and permanently. The blessing of eternal fellowship with Him has always been God’s plan and God’s promise for His elect. He has placed His people in His world for His glory. The big question is: **What will this day of separation be like for you**?

 There will be a **certain, final separation**. The hand of God, using the glove of the Romans, brought about an earlier judgment on the Jews and Jerusalem. When Jesus comes back to judge the world, it will be at a time no one expects. Don’t be caught unprepared! Our job while we wait? Embrace our King’s mission. Invest yourself in the opportunities He has provided for you. (Q1) The growth of His kingdom is unstoppable! Christ WILL come visibly and tangibly and judge every person who has ever lived. Jesus will be enthroned (Dan. 7:13-14) and ALL will bow before Him (Phil. 2:9-11) because He alone has ALL authority (Matt. 28:18).

 This will be a **universal separation**. “all the nations” refers to all people groups. Your nationality doesn’t matter; your allegiance to King Jesus does! His sheep recognize the Shepherd’s voice and want to follow Him (John 10:11, 27-28). This judgment is universal: no corner of the globe will escape this judgment. He will separate the genuine believers from the “replicas” and the other unbelievers. Our culture has many who name Christ as Savior, but don’t follow Him. Those of us who do follow Him don’t do so perfectly, but we do so sincerely. The Shepherd knows His sheep and they are eternally secure.

 This is a **just (righteous) separation** (1 Peter 3:18). The redeemed and the unregenerate are easily distinguishable to Him. His sheep are saved by faith in what Jesus has done, and by His mighty work we are declared just. He knows His followers and He knows the rebels (Ps. 138:6). We are all mixed together now, but there is a Day coming when we will not be surrounded by sin and still battling the sin that is within us. He is even now progressively making us into the holy people He has proclaimed us to be. One Day this battle with sin will finally be over! Jesus assures us that One Day we will be at His right hand (Ps. 110:1; Heb. 1:1-3). Be assured: Even on your worst day- when you are under constant attack from Satan- know that your salvation is secure if you are one of His sheep.

 We are talking about a **joyful separation**. “come you who are blessed” is a word of welcome. Your welcome is NOT based on your righteousness, but it is based on your trusting completely in what Christ has done for you. The blessed are those who have the truth about Christ revealed to them (Matt. 16:16-17). They are blessed because they run to Him. They are blessed because they take shelter in Him. You are blessed because you have a forever relationship with God, a God who has wanted this relationship forever! Please note the word “inherit” in Matt. 25:34. You don’t earn this blessing. It’s yours by right of relationship with the Living God. You are a member of His family now! So, live in the direction of this finish line (Col. 3:1-3). **What will this time of separation be like for you**? (Q2)

*Lord, pierce our hearts with Your Word so that we may hear Your voice and see our great need for You. May we live for You and represent You in a way that is worthy of our calling. Amen.* (Q3)

**QUESTIONS**:

1. What has He called you to be doing for Him at this stage of your life?
2. As a group, discuss all the ways we are blessed to be in God’s family.
3. As a group, discuss all the ways we should walk worthy of our calling.
4. How does Jesus describe Himself in Matt. 25? Why is this appropriate?
5. What is the significance of the throne, the nations, and the separation?
6. How does today’s promise for the future inform the way you live now?

**“Holy, Holy, Holy” (Heber)**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea,

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,

Who wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,

Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;

Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,

Perfect in power, love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!