

Matthew 25:31-46 Pastor Jordan Gades 4/7/19

Feels like we are skipping over a few things. That's what we tend to do a lot of so with today's parable I thought I'd take a step back and maybe start in the beginning

In the beginning...

The Word was with God and the Word was God

God created the heavens and the earth, God created us

Gave us heaven on earth, gave us true full life

And then humanity screwed it up

And then God kept trying to fix our relationship

God saved Noah when God could have really just restarted

God chose Abraham to help redeem the nations, God sent Moses to Egypt

God chose prophets and judges and kings to help the people of Israel

All of those failed, all those people that God chose, God even gave them specific missions to do but they all ultimately failed because sin is stronger than humanity. So as we look at this story of creation we see this pattern emerge.

**Creation: sin entering and corrupting and destroying, God interceding, and then our response.**

Let's see how far this pattern holds true shall we? Let's hold this pattern up to the life of Jesus

So then the journey kept moving forward and it was time for God to send the son. So The Son of God was born as a baby. The son of God grew up with his mother and earthly father. The Son of God started his ministry on earth by being baptized. Jesus journeyed from place to place, teach and healing, preaching and performing miracles, then Jesus journeyed to the cross and through death to new life.

**And again we see Creation, sin entering and corrupting and destroying, God interceding, and here we are responding to the life of Christ.**

So far so good. Seems like all of history, now even the son of God still falls under this pattern. But not most importantly, do we?

And now us some 2000 years later, In-between stuff

Us with our short time on Earth, us who have been made in the image of God, desire to be God ourselves, We want things to happen fast, we expect it, we desire it, we need it but yet this March of creation says something else.

We are on a journey- Look to Jesus - It's a process, If there's anything that we can learn and should really hold on to its that God chose to walk a journey instead of just snapping his fingers and making it so. If that's the way that God chose to redeem the world we probably shouldn't expect too many snaps to be happening in our lives.

So if we hold to this pattern then we must actually hold to this pattern. We must always hold that we are sinners.

Yes that's not such a startling revelation, and I bet you're thinking to yourself, You know pastor Jordan you are just opening up the bible and gospel in a whole new light by telling me this thing that I've known since I was in kindergarten.

But hear again. Hold onto this you are a sinner. I am a sinner.

There is this pervasive and persuasive lie that's is constantly and insisently worming its way through our society. It's been doing so since the first sin. This lie is "I think I'm doing pretty good. I think I'm a pretty good person." And off of that the rot begins. Our apathy towards others drags us down. Our own self-righteousness blinds us to our God and our neighbors. Only when we know the disease can we search out its cure. Can the pattern continue as God has made.

I was in class one day early in seminary. I don't remember the class but it was one of the first ones they put you in, one of those "Let's just rip off all band aids at once" classes. Any way one of my professors says this line

The first Word of the Gospel names you as sinner. Before the Gospel saves, the gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Condemns us. This is so important because this is the part of our lives which we love to gloss over. This is the part that we that the most forgiving of, our selves. We actively try to forget it. We say we are the image of God, such a wonderful creation we point to the love of God and say Look God loves me! But forget to say even I really do not deserve it.

This is so important because it points right back to Jesus as judge and leads us to grace and redemption. It's the crux that binds.

**Creation: sin entering and corrupting and destroying, God interceding, and then our response.**

Jesus is talking about the final judgement today, the end of all creation as we know it. Talking to a whole group of people in the midst of their short times on Earth. And tells them about true righteousness.

About feeding and clothing and giving. This is how the righteous choose to live off their journey through creation.

Jesus' Audience - Rule followers but only for the end, did not actually think about anything else but themselves. We're thinking about nothing but the finish line and crossing it themselves

Now we comes our response. Don't know if you've noticed be these last week weeks of Matthew have been dealing a lot with weeping, darkness, and gnashing of teeth. And our kids and youth have gotten quite the kick out of that. But we know that is not our fate because of the sacrifice of Christ.

But our response does not come once final judgement has been decided, when the sheep are separated from the goats. It starts now. You know it does. I know it does. We are freed to stop worrying about the finish line of this race, stop worrying about if we will ever make it to our destination, rather it's now our call and our joy to help other get there too. To feed and to cloth but also to love and to give hope. To radically love and give hope. Those you can always give, though they often be the harder to share.

That is our response as we live in this pattern of **Incredible Creation, destructive and horrible sin, and always God entering in amongst us and loving us, Forever. Now we respond to that Love. Amen.**