

NOTES TO LEADERS: Pastor Bill's message focused on being certain that you will join Jesus in His eternal kingdom of heaven.

SHARE

Share about an amazing gift you received.

NOTES TO LEADERS: The purpose of this sharing time is to segue into Jesus' offer of eternal life. An interesting question to ask after each person shares is "Did you receive the gift?"

LEARN

This week's 'Now what' statement: "Be certain that you will receive the inheritance of heaven."

Some of Jesus' most direct teaching about final judgment is found in Matthew 25. Read Matthew 25:31-46 and consider these questions:

Who is the judge that will decide who receives the inheritance of God's kingdom (eternal life)? On what basis? How are these 'receivers' described in this passage? What specific evidence from their lives reveals that they have a relationship with Jesus?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Pastor Bill did a good job of explaining this passage. If you haven't yet, you can hear it from our website. Here is a summary:

- **Clearly, Jesus is the judge of all people**
- **The basis is trusting (faith) in the Lord Jesus death (physical and spiritual) as payment for your sins and His resurrection as evidence of His promise of eternal life.**
- **Receivers are described as "sheep, you who are blessed, the righteous, brothers and sisters,**
- **Evidence that have a relationship with Jesus is that they love and serve Jesus' family (brothers and sisters)**

According to 1 Timothy 2:3-4 and 2 Peter 3:8-9, what is God's desire?

- **1 Tim: God wants all people to be saved**
- **2 Peter: God is not wanting anyone to perish but come to repentance**

What do we learn about who will enter the kingdom of heaven from the following?

Matthew 5:20, 1 Corinthians 6:9 and then Romans 3:21-24 (compare this to Matthew 25:46)

- **Matthew: righteousness must surpass the Pharisees**
- **1 Corinthians: wrongdoers will not enter**
- **Romans 3: Only those who have righteousness from God will enter**
- **Matthew 25: Righteousness is required to enter**

John 5:24

Those who hear Jesus' word and believe will enter

Titus 3:3-6

No one will enter God's kingdom by one's own good works. Rather we can enter because the Holy Spirit provides rebirth and renewal on the basis of Jesus' work so that we are declared righteous by grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9

We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ – it is a gift of God.

Colossians 2:13-14

God made us alive in Christ; He forgave our sins that canceled our indebtedness before God so that we might enter the kingdom of heaven.

In your own words, who will enter the kingdom of heaven?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Great exercise to do together.

DISCUSS

What are the essentials for sharing with someone how they could enter the kingdom of heaven?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Great exercise to do together.

What assurances do you personally hold on to that you will receive the inheritance?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Shepherds: Please listen carefully so that people are clear on the gospel, correct in their understanding of what saves and assures entrance into God's kingdom. There is often a mixing of on's own works with God's provision in Jesus.

What gives you confidence to share the good news of who enters the kingdom of heaven? What verses would you use?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Our confidence should come from the presence and work of the Holy Spirit, from prayer, from knowing with clarity the good news, and from seeing God work in previous times. (The more we pray and see God work, the more confidence we have.) Jesus plan was for us to develop this confidence together.

See you Friday evening at 6:00!

Steve