

Jesus is Coming with Judgment

Matthew 13:41–43

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This month I've been sharing about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. He will come with the sign of the Son of Man in the sky. No one knows when Jesus will return, but it will happen in an instant. Believers will be rejoicing as the angels gather them from all around the world. Every believer will receive a new spiritual body. There are many things we like to hear.

Then there are words that we don't want to hear. The truth always needs to be heard. We may not like the truth. What I am about to say is terrifying. It is the absolute truth. It is the part of scripture that people don't like. If you are easily offended, you won't like what I am about to tell you. If you feel as though everyone should be treated fairly with love, you are about to be upset. If you want God to defy His own character, act against His own plans, you will be disappointed.

In Matthew chapter thirteen Jesus has been sharing parables about His Kingdom. Some of the parables are about living in the Kingdom moment by moment. Other parables are about the future Kingdom when He returns.

Matthew 13:41 (NIV) The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

Jesus will unexpectedly come again and His angels will execute His judgment. Jesus is speaking about establishing His eternal Kingdom. Even though as Christians we have the Kingdom within us and we take the Kingdom with us wherever we go, the Second Coming of Christ is truly the eternal Kingdom.

When you gave your life, your spirit, your soul, and your body to Jesus you entered His Kingdom. But the Kingdom reaches it's full potential when Jesus returns. We pray for God's Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. We want the fullness of God's Kingdom in the world.

As long as sin exists in this life the Kingdom of God isn't fulfilled. There is in this life the power of sin, the work of sin, the very person of sin. Sin is a person, a fallen angel, known as Lucifer, we call him Satan, the devil. He is not alone, there are many fallen angels who desired to be God, who rebelled against God. They are following His lead. They are in our world, they contaminate our lives, corrupting all that is in this life.

Jesus will send out His angels when He returns and they will pull out of His Kingdom all the sin. They will pull out of Jesus' Kingdom greed, vengeance, hatred, violence. They will pull out of Jesus' Kingdom apathy, complacency, procrastination, laziness. They will pull out of Jesus' Kingdom self-centered, selfishness, narcissism.

Think about sin in this way: it is an entity all by itself. We view sin as our actions, but sin in all of it's forms is like an individual with a mind of it's own. Greed, vengeance, hatred, violence fight to take over our lives. Apathy, complacency, procrastination, laziness work to be in control of our lives. Self-centered, selfishness, narcissism battle to lead us through each day.

The angels sent by Jesus are pulling out each one of these sins like weeds are separated from the wheat. It's like the chaff being separated from the wheat. All the weeds, the chaff are cast aside. The angels bring Jesus' followers to Him.

The angels at the same time will remove all who are sinners. Sin is removed and sinners are removed. All the people who are living according to the power of sin are removed. That includes people who think they are saved and aren't. They have not trusted Jesus to take away their sin, it's power, and it's punishment. The sinners who will be removed include all the people who know they are sinners and don't care. They are doing what is evil. God has decided that the right time has come to judge them for their sins.

This is both a glorious moment and a terrifying moment. For all those who trust Jesus, His arrival means our salvation is complete. We are rejoicing at the victory of Jesus over Lucifer and all that is evil. We are receiving our new spiritual and eternal bodies. We are in heaven. But every sinner is terrified.

Matthew 13:41 (NIV) The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil.

The whether we like it or not the truth is sin and sinners will be judged. These words of Jesus speak about the judgment of all sin and all sinners. Remember sin is it's own entity and it will be judged for being against the will of God. Sin is against God's plans and God's purposes. Sin is in rebellion, in contradiction of God. Sin is judged.

The judgment of Jesus at His return finds sin is guilty on all charges. From the beginning of time up to the moment of Jesus' arrival sin is found guilty. Sin is guilty of it's deception and lie in the Garden of Eden. Sin is guilty of hatred, jealousy, revenge, and violence. Sin is found guilty of disobedience, rejection, defiance. Guilty is the verdict for indifference, complacency, idleness. Self-centeredness is pronounced guilty.

Everything short of absolute worship of God Almighty is sin. Every person who fails to worship God unequivocally is guilty of sin. Any instance of putting yourself first instead of God is sin. No other sin needs to exist because everyone has acted selfishly. We all have selfish thoughts. We have had selfish attitudes. We have lived selfish lives. Everyone is a sinner.

But when Jesus returns He will send His angels to gather every person who has called upon His name. These angels of Jesus will be looking for and finding all those who confessed their selfishness, who turned away from their self-centered attitudes and actions, who trusted Jesus to remove their sin and their guilt. These followers of Jesus, who have chosen a new way of life, people who love Jesus, who are His disciples will be gathered from every direction and brought to Jesus.

This judgment of Jesus will happen in an instant for every individual. When the sign of the Son of Man appears in the sky every inhabitant on earth will immediately know that this is Jesus. They will all confess that Jesus is Lord of all.

In an instant they will be doing one of two things. They will either be rejoicing with words and songs of adoration, or they will be crying, wailing, and weeping with anguish and sorrow. Like the flash of lightning in the sky the judgment of Jesus will fall upon every person. In that moment they will know their salvation or their guilty.

Jesus is the only way to be saved. His death on the cross was because of our sin. He became our sin. He was always faithful to the plans and the will of God. He was always true to His character as God. He never sinned, but took on our sin as a sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sin. Every person living or dead who trusted Jesus will be judged not-guilty. They will receive a new spiritual body, which is not corrupted by sin. They will enter into heaven for eternity. They will live with Jesus forever and forever.

Matthew 13:42–43 (NIV) They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

After reading this passage you have to tell someone the Good News of Jesus Christ. Think of the fiery furnace as hell and that's why people are crying and in anguish. The angels sent by Jesus will throw sin and sinners into the fiery furnace. Hell is the fiery furnace that is always burning. So for all of eternity sin and sinners will be in the furnace. Never to be released from the heat. Always experiencing the pain and the torment of the flames.

Can you see why they are crying, weeping and wailing? Can you understand why they are clenching their jaws and grinding their teeth? For many people this description doesn't sound compassionate and kind. And it isn't. This is justice for sin and for sinners. For many people hell seems inconceivable and inconsistent with a gentle and loving God. and it isn't.

This is what a God who is also just must do or He wouldn't be a just God. That would make God as not God. The living God, who created all things to be in perfect relationship with Him is kind, compassionate, gentle, loving, just and true to His character. God is not worthy of praise and adoration if He is not true to His character. God is not creditable of trust if He says one thing and then does another. God is not good if He permits disobedience, unfaithfulness and selfishness to go unpunished. That kind of God is more like luke-warm water, sour milk, rotten meat. All those things we would spit out of our mouths.

God the creator and Savior, Lord of all life is unlike anything that is sinful. God the Father has been revealing Himself in all the heavens above. We see His handiwork in placing each star in the right place in the sky. We are aware of His workmanship in the creation of every creature on the earth, in the sea, and in the sky. We are able to see His glory and majesty in the flowers in the fields, the mountains, the streams, the tiniest and greatest things on earth. So no one, from the first two people created to the last person born is without excuse for not worshiping Him, trusting in Him, calling out to Him as Savior and Lord.

The Son of Man is shining through every Christian right now. He is the Light of the world. He is within every believer. He is upon all those who trust in His salvation. The question is, are we letting His light shine through our lives? Does Jesus make a difference in what we say and do? Since the day you were saved have you allowed His light to be seen in your words and actions?

We don't need to wait for Jesus to return to be a shining light for Jesus. Compared to all the darkness of sin and evil in our world, the light of Jesus shining through is bright. Sin and evil may exist in our world until Jesus returns, but the Light of Jesus is still shining. The Light of Jesus always brings light into the darkness. The Light of Jesus is always brighter than the darkness of sin and evil.

Matthew 13:43 (NIV) He who has ears, let him hear.

Tell your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers that Jesus can save them. I've heard sinners selfishly say that they're okay being hell, all their friends are there. That's ignorant talk, because they don't know what hell is like. They've been misled and deceived into thinking that is more of what they are doing right now. Oops! That's really wrong. That's missing the truth completely.

Hell is a fiery furnace and so much worse. I'm not going to go into other explanation than to say it's forever separated from God. Why would we want anyone to be separated from God forever?

So, there are two things everyone needs to know. As disciples who are making more disciples we have been sent to family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. First, everyone needs to hear that heaven and hell are real. As real as the seat you are sitting on today. As real as the pain you feel when you touch the hot stove. As real as the peace you experience when your sins are forgiven.

Second, people need to know is God's desire for every person to be in Heaven. He loves every person even though they are corrupted by the power of sin and lead sinful lives. His love for each individual brought Him to a cross. God the Son, Jesus, died on that cross as the sin of all the world. While Jesus died from being our sin, He rose from the dead leaving our sins behind and crushing death. Every person, regardless of their past, is forgiven when they trust Jesus. That belief is the point of our judgment. It is the very tip of the arrow that makes the difference between rejoicing when Jesus returns or being thrown into the fiery furnace.

We've talked about praying for people to see their sin. In our prayers we've prayed for the opportunity to plant and water and harvest this Good News. Now, we are confronted with the truth that every needs to know Jesus. Everyone needs to trust Jesus.

You have the ears, the spiritual ears, to hear the truth. You don't want anyone to be cast into eternal flames. You don't want your co-workers or neighbors to live in hell. Even more you don't want friends and family to spend eternity in hell. Let the words that come out of your mouth proclaim the love and mercy of God to save them from hell.

Most importantly, will you be rejoicing when Jesus returns? Will the angels bring you to Jesus? Will the angels be throwing you into the fiery furnace? Jesus gave His life in exchange for yours. He became your sin on that cross, died and sent your sin to Hell. He rose from the dead so that you can cast aside your sin and live in heaven.

Everyone needs to make a choice. Choose to live according your desires, doing whatever you want, living selfishly and at a moment when you least expect it you will be condemned. Choose Jesus. Choose to receive His mercy and grace. Choose to live in His love. Choose to be saved.

Each person who calls upon the name of Jesus is saved. You can have His power to overcome your selfish desires. You can have joy and hope in your life all the time and even for eternity. You can be loved and forgiven, covered in grace, and living in peace. Set aside your own thoughts. Turn away from your pride. Confess that you are a sinner. Turn to Jesus.