

Sermon: "Naughty List; Sheepish Faith? No waaaaaa!"

Mt 25:31-40 The Sheep and Goats NIV

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Sermon Notes: "Naughty List; Sheepish Faith? No waaaaaa!"

We are sheep – or at least on the day of judgement we want to be numbered among the sheep that are saved. We want to be a sheep – so we feed the hungry, we invite in the stranger, we clothe those in tatters, we tend to the sick and we visit the prisoner. We want to be sheep so we care for veterans, and widows, and orphans.

The least shy people I knew...

Belushi brothers – "We're on a mission from God" - Their final act to save an orphanage – did not excuse their poor judgement calls, it did not take away their sins. They were still on the naughty list – even after doing a good deed.

We, as individuals and the church need to Connect with the community and the world as we participate in the *mission of God*:

the **Great Commandment** (Matthew 22:37-39) to put love of God and neighbor above all else;

the **Great Commitment** (Matthew 16:24) to embody God's love individually through spiritual disciplines;

the **Great Requirement** (Micah 6:8) to live God's love through our actions;

and the **Great Commission** (Matthew 28:19-20) to go and take God's love into the world by making disciples, baptizing, and teaching faithful obedience.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 that everyone has spiritual gifts

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

- 1) Don't be shy and what you're asking God for

God doesn't think we're frivolous God doesn't think the things that we ask for our frivolous God knows our hearts you know what to ask for your not going ask for cotton candy

Philippians 4:4ff

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

- 2) Don't be shy and trying to find the right words to talk to God

3) Don't be shy about the answer you'll get. Don't think the only way you're going to get answered is the same way that everyone else gets answered in front of you. Just pray about it

- 4) Prayer is power. Life is too short. We don't have all the answers.
We really don't have that much power especially if we don't pray.
It not an automatic –