

Matthew 7:21-23

How I learned to love one of the scariest verses in Scripture

Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

²² On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’

²³ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

Matthew 23:1–15 (ESV)

“Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 2 **“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, 3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.** 4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.

5 **They do all their deeds to be seen by others.** For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, 6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues 7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. 8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers.

9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. 10 Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. 11 The greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

13 “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. 15 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, **you make him** twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.”

The Sheep (Matthew 25:31-40)

‘I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’

The Goats (Matthew 25:41-46)

‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ 45 - Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’

The Sheep (Matthew 25:31-40)	The Goats Matthew 23:13-14 (ESV)
They believed the Gospel and shared it with others, guiding people into Christ's kingdom.	¹³ “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of Heaven in people’s faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.

The Sheep
Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

“Bear one another’s burdens,
and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

They lightened the burdens of
the people by their obedience,
example, and teaching.

The Goats
Matthew 23:13-14 (ESV)

They increased the burdens of
the people by their traditions,
example, and teaching.

The Sheep Galatians 6:2 (ESV)

They showed people their nakedness before God and how to be clothed in the righteousness of Christ. They teach that only the righteousness of Christ can cover our sins. All other coverings are inadequate and, ironically, only increase our sin.

The Goats Matthew 23:13-14 (ESV)

The Sheep Luke 4:18-19

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to proclaim
good news to the poor. He has sent me
to proclaim liberty to the captives and
recovering of sight to the blind, to set at
liberty those who are oppressed, to
proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

The Goats Matthew 23:13-14 (ESV)

The Sheep Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Goats Matthew 23:13-14 (ESV)

Everyone has Two Choices Based on Matthew 5 and 25

Right Choice	Wrong Choice
(5) Kingdom values	(5) Worldly values
(5) What Jesus says	(5) Teachings of the scribes, pharisees, and chief priests
(5) Christ's righteousness	(5) Worldly righteousness
(7:13) Narrow gate	Wide gate
(7:14) Way to life	(7:13) Way to destruction
(7:17) Good fruit	(7:18) Bad fruit
(7:24-25) Build on the Rock	(7:26-27) Build on sand
(6:24) Serve God	(6:24) Serve mammon
(6:34) Trust God	(6:34) Worry
(6:20) Treasures in Heaven	(6:19) Treasures on Earth