

# Hell

## Tragedy of Tragedies

Sunday, July 31, 2011

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### Message Truth:

Jesus taught that one's failure to be born again has the consequence of eternal damnation; and that many of those who will suffer this fate will be greatly surprised because in their minds they have nothing to fear from God's judgment. Those who inherit God's kingdom are blessed because they have lived according to God's will even though they are surprised by the particular acts of righteousness for which Jesus recognizes them.

### Message Text:

<sup>31</sup> *"But when the Son of Man\* comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne.*

<sup>32</sup> *All the nations\* will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. <sup>34</sup> "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. <sup>36</sup> I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? <sup>39</sup> When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup> "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth,*

*when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters,\* you were doing it to me!' <sup>41</sup> "Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.\* <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry, and you didn't feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give me a drink. <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, and you didn't invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.' <sup>44</sup> "Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?' <sup>45</sup> "And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.' <sup>46</sup> "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."*

Matthew 25:31-46 (NLT)

- What does this Bible story teach you about those who die without God's saving grace? Does this story teach that the way to be saved is to perform good works such as helping the needy?
- Do you most identify with the sheep or the goats? Do you identify with those whose needs are met or those whose needs are not being met?
- What does this Bible story teach you about those who have the ability to help those in need, but do not?
- Based on this story, is there anything you need to change concerning the way you live?
- Is there someone with whom you need to share this Bible story?