



### Matthew 25:31-33, 41-46 New Revised Standard Version

<sup>1</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

<sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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The people (goats) in today’s text really did not do anything “wrong.” Their trouble came from not doing *anything* at all. It can be easy for us to think about who we are and all of the good that we do while pointing out the flaws in others. However, we can

overlook those things in our lives which might very well be missing.

The people of Jesus’ day had a pretty good idea about what it meant to be righteous by following God’s list of “dos and don’ts.” But, there were moments when they fell short by missing out on opportunities to do good unto others. We can assume that as long as we do not do anything “bad” we must be okay, but this passage warns us of those sins which are classified as “sins of omission.”

What leads to such sins of omission? Apathy. Apathy allows one to be disconnected from his or her surroundings and essentially dwelling in his or her own little world. This individual becomes desensitized to anyone or anything other than what he or she chooses to focus upon. That was the scenario for the goats in this passage and Jesus’ words serve as a strong warning against such behavior in the lives of those who profess to follow him.

Apathy is not just an issue; it is a danger. Hellen Keller once stated, “Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all—the apathy of human beings.” We do a tremendous disservice to our world and especially the Kingdom of God when we see and know, but close our eyes and ignore. We contribute to the problems of our world when we fail to be a part of the solutions.

### Thoughts to Consider:

1. What is missing can be detrimental to our existence.
2. To overcome apathy, our prayer should be “Lord, empty me of me, so I can be filled with you.”
3. A lack of care and Christianity do not go together.

**Prayer Pebble:** Lord, give me your eyes and hands so that I might see and act in your name.