

# The Last Judgment

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## **Scene Summary**

The play “The Last Judgment” presents a startling parable. Christ returns and all people, from all nations, from all time are brought before the His throne...there is a division made into two groups...one on the left and one on the right...then there is an announcement first to those on the right...the response from this group “Lord when did we see you...” and the King’s reply...then to those on His left another announcement...then comes the same response from this group...the King’s reply.

## **Scripture**

(Mat 25:31-46 NIV) "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. {32} 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. {33} He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. {34} "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. {35} 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, {36} 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.' {37} "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? {38} When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? {39} When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' {40} "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' {41} "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. {42} For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, {43} I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' {44} "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' {45} "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth,

whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' {46} "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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### ***Players***

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **Christ, The King** – Coming with His angels in glory and honor.
- **Sheep and Goats** – There can be many sheep and goats.
- **Angels** – Accompany Christ onto His Throne.

### ***Special Props***

- A golden crown for Christ and additionally royal robes.
- Optional white garments for the angels.

## ***Script – The Last Judgment***

[Opening scene: The throne (large chair, elevated if possible) is at center stage. The sheep and goats come on stage all together. They begin to walk about the throne in awe and are amazed at what this is like. The narrator speaks as the King comes accompanied by the angels.]

**Narrator:** When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

[The sheep and goats bow down before Him]

**Narrator:** All the nations will be gathered before him.

[The angels now go among the sheep and goats. They separate them into two groups, one on each side of the throne]

**Narrator:** 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.

**Christ, The King:** [turning 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.'

[The sheep look at each other questioning]

**Sheep 1:** Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,

**Sheep 2:** Or thirsty and give you something to drink?

**Sheep 3:** When did we see you a stranger and invite you in,

**Sheep 4:** Or needing clothes and clothe you?

**Sheep 5:** When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

**Christ, The King:** I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.

[now turning to those on His left]

**Christ, The King:** Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you

gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.

**Goat 1:** Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty?

**Goat 2:** Or a stranger or needing clothes

**Goat 3:** Or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

**Christ, The King:** [with emphasis on the 'not'] I tell you the truth, whatever you did **not** do for one of the least of these, you did **not** do for me.

[The goats go off stage crying and wailing stage left. The King leads the sheep off stage right.]

**Narrator:** Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

The End

### ***Supplemental Information***

Our Lord told this parable towards the end of His ministry on earth. He was going away. Where would the disciples be able to find Christ? The disciples had to look elsewhere, they had to turn from the physical presence of Christ to those who were poor, hungry, suffering and in prison. Christ would be among the least of these.

“I have said this many times before but I will say it again: Jesus is present in the broken bodies of those suffering people. My way of serving him is to serve them. The biggest disease in the world today is not leprosy or AIDS, but the feeling of being unwanted and uncared for. The greatest evil is the lack of love, the terrible indifference towards one’s neighbor. What the poor, and not just the poor, need even more than food, clothes and shelter, is to be wanted.” Mother Teresa of Calcutta

### ***Extra Time***

Rerun the play switching roles of the sheep and the goats. Talk to your students about how it feels to be the sheep or the goats. Open up a discussion with your students about how this parable fits with the other teachings of Jesus, such as the Good Samaritan and what it means to be a neighbor.

Help your students reach out to the community by planning a visit to a nursing home or a food bank or to the local hospital. “I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward.” (Mark 9:41 NIV)