



REPLENISHED – Separation Matters 4th July 2021 Brian Greenaway

This Study Guide provides a summarised study with additional discussion questions based on the scriptures mentioned in the sermon.

Connect:

1. There are different judgements in the Bible (2 Main):
 - **The Judgment of believers** – A time of review and reward for believers only
 - Read [Romans 14:10](#)
 - Read [2 Corinthians 5:10](#)
 - **The Judgement of unbelievers** – When all those not in Christ when He returns, or who died but had not taken Jesus as their Lord and Saviour are judged and consigned to the Lake of Fire which is designed for the devil and his angels.
 - Read [Revelation 20:11-15](#)

Engage:

2. Read [Matthew 25:31-46](#)
3. The Bible clearly teaches that we are saved by grace alone, that our salvation is not through good works but through Christ's death and resurrection. Does the parable of the sheep and goats contradict this?
4. Context is very important - as always. The end of Matthew 25 immediate context is 24 and 25 – which is Jesus' end time discourse (The Olivet discourse); Pastor Brian spoke about this 2 weeks ago. And so, Jesus gives us a series of signs that have to be in place before His return:
 - **Warning:** Deception, false Messiahs and prophets.
 - **Signs:** Wars, rumours of wars, nations and kingdoms rising against each other, famines, pestilences, earthquakes.
 - **Persecution:** Of believers – even families betraying one another.
 - **Falling Away:** Of believers – due to lawlessness and materialism.
 - **Endurance of believers:** Will see them through.
 - **The Gospel will be preached.**
 - **Israel back in their Land.**
5. Jesus speaks about Himself when He uses the term: 'When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory'. He uses the same term in [Matthew 16:27-28](#), [19:28](#), and [24:30-31](#), and they all point back to [Daniel 7:13-14](#). Jesus has already referenced Daniel's visions in [Matthew 24:15](#), where He speaks about the abomination of desolation, so we can see the framework.
6. It is an apocalyptic piece of literature – What is the theme?

- When Jesus spoke the words in Matthew 25:31-46, it was to His disciples. The immediate interpretation of what Jesus said, was to them at this time and the events that would take place to the Jewish nation after He had gone (most specifically in AD70 and AD135).
 - But the parable has another fulfilment, which has not fully come to pass yet, although nearly all is in place for it. In this case, “we” as Jesus’ disciples now, need to be seeing the signs in our context.
7. The Judgment of the Nations or Gentiles (the Greek word can mean either), takes place on earth before the kingdom is established on earth, for the saved are told to “inherit the kingdom (verse 34). If this is literal and it is, where does it take place?
 8. Who are those being judged?

Framework:

- Let’s consider some key words in our text and where the same phraseology appears elsewhere in the Bible:
 - Read [Matthew 10:40-42](#)
 - Read [Mark 9:41](#)
 - Read [Matthew 12:46-50](#)
 - Who does Jesus consider His brethren?
9. Now let’s think of location. We know that Jesus will return to reign on the earth. The Bible tells us very clearly that He will return to the mount of Olives, Then He will reign over the nations from Jerusalem.
 10. Read [Joel 3:1-2](#)
 11. So, if we want to answer the questions – ‘location and purpose’, we need to consider this:
 - Joel 3, the location of this judgment is the Valley of Jehoshaphat, outside Jerusalem. Jesus is saying to the nations in this passage – how did you treat my people? There is going to be an aspect of judgement, or separation between those nations in how they treat the Jewish people.
 - But we also recognise the identity of Jesus with His disciples. Believers – disciples – We see it when Jesus refers to ‘little ones’, and places like Matthew 10:40-42, so the context of those phrases is supporting a disciple in need.
 12. Sometimes believers have made the mistake that social action is the most important thing the church can do. But there is no point doing good things to people if they end up in eternal punishment.
 13. Read [Romans 10:14](#)
 14. Matthew 25 in complete context shows us that there will be a time of separation. Here is an important question which seems a logical outcome: Are these people given eternal life in Gods Kingdom just because of the way they treated others, the Jewish people or believers?
 15. The works are not a salvation issue, but they are an outcome of our faith in Jesus. Read [James 2:18](#)
 16. How does your faith in God lead you to live very different lives from those around you?
 17. Read [1 Peter 2:9](#)

18. Do you examine your heart and life, and ask God whether you are making choices and decisions in line with what it means to be His follower?
19. Read [Hebrews 4:11-13](#)
20. Are you able to separate what is wrong and what is right?

Conclusion:

21. The church is going to be facing major issues as it goes forward and we as believers need to be able to confidently and clearly make the right choices. We should be able to understand how we can gracefully but without compromise, stand up for what is right as our nation moves further and further away from its Judeo-Christian heritage.
22. The number one challenge is going to be Biblical literacy – how we value the Word of God and how well we know it.
23. It is important for us to also be able to make choices, decisions based on God’s Word and not on feelings or the worlds value system.

Prayer:

“Dear Lord, help me to be able to lead a life of faith that leads to right choices. In Jesus Name Amen”