



# KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, 2023

**BIBLE LESSON: MATT. 25:31-46**

## **The Final Judgement** Matthew 25:31-46

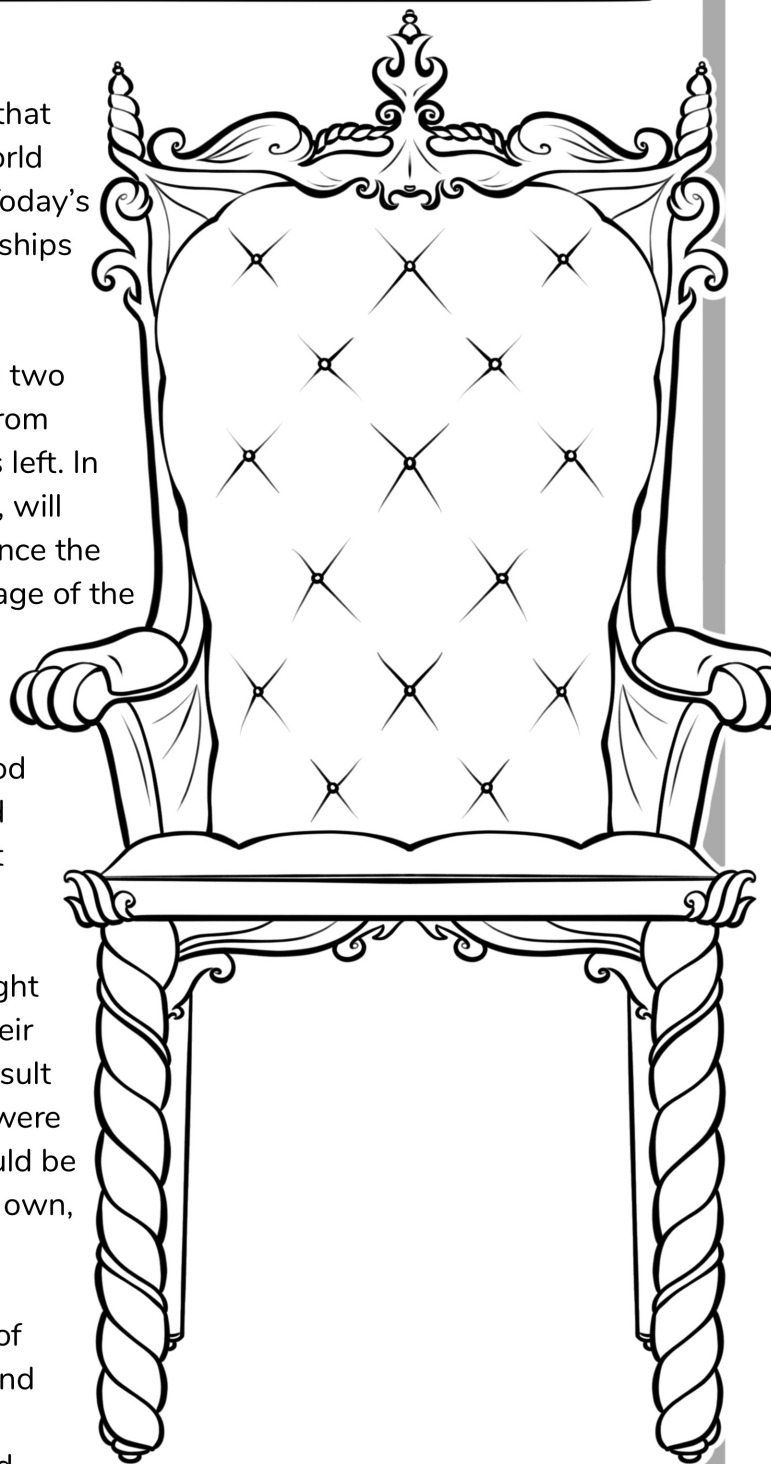
In the previous week's lessons we read verses that talked about our relationship with God and the world and how that relationship is one of stewardship. Today's reading goes into more detail about those relationships and how this will play out on the last day.

In verse 32 Jesus separates all of humanity into two groups just as a shepherd might separate sheep from goats; the sheep on His right and the goats on His left. In verse 34 Jesus tells us that the sheep, the blessed, will inherit the kingdom that was prepared for them since the foundation of the world. He comes back to the image of the Good Shepherd and His sheep and explains how, after the sheep and the goats are separated only the sheep will be blessed. The separating is completed before Jesus makes any mention of good deeds which demonstrates how the righteous had performed acts of mercy and stewardship without thought of reward.

The order emphasizes how people are made right with God, by God, (justification) not because of their good works, but rather that good works are the result of God making a person right with Himself! If we were to be judged based on our works then no one would be saved, because no one is worthy enough, on their own, to be "put on His right" as verse 33 says.

The confessors made this clear in the Formula of Concord when they explained in Article IV "how and why the good works of believers are pleasing and acceptable to God" despite them being impure and incomplete.

What we confess in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, that "He will come again to judge both





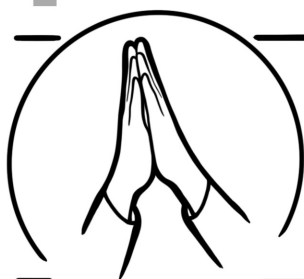
## KIDS' LECTIONARY LEARNING TEACHING SUPPLEMENT

(Continued)



LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE  
OF CANADA

the living and the dead”, is what Matthew is describing in the Gospel reading today. Mercifully all our sins and failures have been removed from us, fully forgiven by Jesus’ sacrifice upon the cross, so that on the Day of Judgment, because of God’s gift to us of faith in Him, He sees only the good works that come as a result of that faith.



### Prayer

Let us pray together: Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for sending your Son Jesus to die for me and for the waters of Baptism to wash away my sins. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

**Notes:**