

THE LAST GOODBY

Matthew 25:35-46

Introduction: People are always telling each other "goodby" when they go off to work or school or when they go on vacation, or when they move away. Usually the "goodby" is but for a short while before seeing one another again and no thought is ever given that that "goodby" might be the last one ever given to that person. When death comes for a person, there will be one final "goodby" said and that will be at the burial of that person with the only hope of ever seeing that person again being a reuniting someday in heaven.

I. GOD HAS CREATED THREE PLACES FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE

1. The first place is where everyone is born, here on this earth.
 - As everyone knows there are all kinds of people living at the same time.
 - There are good people, bad people.
 - There are different colors and sizes of people
 - There are people living all over this earth under many conditions.
 - People live on this earth but for a short time and then they go to another place.
2. The second place is Heaven and only those who were righteous on earth will go there.
 - God has prepared a place for all those who will believe in His Son, Jesus.
 - There will be very few in heaven compared to the many who have lived on earth.
 - Those in Heaven will be so overjoyed that they will forget about ever living on earth.
3. The third place is Hell and all those who failed to believe in God's Son, Jesus will go there.
 - One doesn't have to do a thing to go to hell, just live and die without believing in Jesus.
 - God made Hell for Satan and the fallen angels who rebelled with him against God but any person who fails to believe in God's Son Jesus will suffer the same fate.

II. JESUS SAID THE HEAVEN BOUND ARE LIKE SHEEP AND THE HELL BOUND ARE LIKE GOATS (*Matthew 25:31-33*)

1. Those who believed in Jesus are on the right hand, the sheep.
 - Called the Righteous, they will go to the place God has prepared called Heaven.
 - They will hear the words, "*Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord...*"
2. Those who failed to believe in Jesus are on the left hand, the goats.
 - Called the Wicked, they will go to the place called Hell with no chance of change.
 - They will be shut out of heaven and sent to Hell, a place of eternal torment and darkness.
 - Nothing could be worse than to be sent to this place called Hell.
3. Two places to live after leaving the earth, one eternal rest, the other eternal punishment.
 - Heaven is God's design and made especially for those who believe in His Son, Jesus.
 - Hell is also God's design and made especially for Satan, his fallen angels, and anyone who has not believed in God's Son, Jesus by the time of earthly death.
 - One cannot go from one place to the other, and is blessed or damned for all eternity.

III. THE SHEEP ARE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF GOD (*Matthew 25:34*)

1. These are people from every walk of life.
 - Some rich, some poor.
 - Some educated, some illiterate.
 - Some of different colors, languages, sizes, but all believers in God's Son, Jesus.
2. God's kingdom is prepared for these people, the sheep, the believers, the Christians.
 - These are realizing what they believed during their life on earth, their hopes come true.
 - They are separated from all the others who never believed in God's Son, Jesus.
 - They will be separated from friends, family members who never believed, but God will wipe away all their tears and take away all their sorrow.

IV. THE GOATS ARE ON THE LEFT SIDE OF GOD (*Matthew 25:41-43*)

1. These are also people from every walk of life.
 - Some rich, some poor.
 - Some educated, some illiterate.
 - Some from every race and language, but all unbelievers in God's Son, Jesus.
2. Hell is the destination of those on the left side of God.
 - All they have ever loved and enjoyed will be gone forever.
 - No more chance to believe in God's Son, Jesus.
3. Their eternity will be spent in hopelessness and the torments of Hell.
 - There will be no relief, no second chance, nothing to look forward to.
 - What mental torment and anguish realizing what could have been had they only believed.

CONCLUSION:

1. Three living places for people: Earth, Heaven, Hell.
2. No choice on the first place, but each person chooses the second place by believing in God's Son, Jesus or by not believing.
3. Last goodby's will be said to and by those who die without believing in God's Son, Jesus for they will never again see those who have believed in God's Son, Jesus.
4. Leaving this earth for one's eternal destination can be either disastrous or glorious. God wants everyone with Him in Heaven but He leaves it up to each person to decide for him/herself by believing or not believing in His Son, Jesus.
5. What is YOUR choice?