

July's Teaching Theme: The Way of the Exile

讲员 Speaker: Peter Tian

题目 Topic: "Standing Before Christ's Judgment Seat"

经文 Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Monthly Idea: This month's teaching theme is a continuation from last month with "Exile" and "the Way of the Exile." The human condition is one of exile as we live in homes that are characterized by brokenness and situated in a world of brokenness. "Exile" also becomes a key identity marker for the Christian, as we give our allegiance to another Kingdom - the Kingdom of God. As "exiles" allegiant to another King and the ethics of that Kingdom, this calls us to be people of consistent love and justice. We are to seek the welfare of our cities but never give allegiance to the nations.

This week we are going to end the theme of "exile" by talking about literal "exiles" and how the Christians are to treat those who are strangers, outcasts, or immigrants in a land not their own. This is a huge biblical theme, that the people of God are a radically inclusive community welcoming outsiders while proclaiming a radically exclusive message of allegiance to King Jesus alone. We've talked a lot in the past about this idea of "reversal" being brought about by Jesus where the marginalized and low-status are brought high while rulers are brought low. That idea fits with this biblical idea as well, but we are going to focus particularly on the "Immigrant" and then we can apply these truths also to those who are "exiles" in other ways (social outsiders, economic outsiders, etc.)

Resources:

Helpful Framing Quote - "Welcoming the stranger (the 'immigrant' we could say today) is the most often repeated commandment in the Hebrew Scriptures, with the exception of the imperative to worship only the one God. And the love of neighbor (especially the more vulnerable neighbor) is doubtlessly the New Testament's constant command...Whatever the cause of immigration today, there can be no doubt as to where the Church must stand when it comes to defending the immigrant." - Orlando Espin (Systematic Theology at the University of San Diego)

Important Notes (from Pastor Will):

- The constant reminder in the OT care for the sojourner because you were once sojourners and slaves in the land of Egypt which I brought you up from, declares the Lord.
- When we look at Israel, God commanded them to put in place economic systems to care for the needy in a way that provides dignity for the poor and keeps the wealth from arrogant-savior mindsets. A great example of this set of laws in action is the story of Ruth (a Moabite caring for a widow) and her collecting from the field of Boaz.

- In Deuteronomy 24:14-22, the idea of “pledge” has to do with holding debt against others. Israel wasn’t allowed to hold a debt against those who were poor.
- Concerning Matthew 25:31-46, I (Pastor Will) hold to the interpretation that “all nations (ethnos)” is most likely all peoples of the earth, including the Church. “Least of these brothers” is probably a reference to Christians but the idea of caring for those of low-status and vulnerable still remains. “Wickedness” and “Righteousness” in this passage is determined upon how one treated “the least of these.” (certainly, this must be held in tension with the rest of biblical cannon).
- There is a clear identification of King Jesus with the lowly and oppressed of society. This emphasis is found throughout the Gospel accounts.
- Concerning Discussion Question 4: To wrestle with the question well, we have to reckon with the whole Biblical narrative together. Biblical “Faith” is more than a “blind belief” as is often the notion in popular thought. Biblical “Faith” is better summarized on the macro level by the word “allegiance.” Allegiance is inclusive of a depth of loyalty and trust (Faith) in King Jesus that will produce “good works” according to the ethics of the Kingdom. (We will talk about this more in next week’s sermon! :)) To better answer question 4, we must ask what does Biblical faith look like? “Faith” in the Bible is a unique category that is both a gift from God and an uncoerced choice of human free will. Those who trust and give their “allegiance” to King Jesus will live by the ways of the Upside-Down Kingdom, but salvation is found in the trust (Faith & Allegiance) not the “good works.” (Order is important!)
- Something we need to consider when thinking about the “least of these” in our life is how we can provide for those in need in a way that gives dignity and resists the urge to lift ourselves up in pride. Often our practices of “giving” are more for building our “self-righteousness” making a clear distinction between us and “the needy.” In these situations, we wrongly act as a “savior” of those in need. We must fight this urge and find creative ways to provide for those in need while giving dignity. When we think about the economic system in Deuteronomy 24, we see a system that radically provides for the poor, fights against greed, while simultaneously giving dignity to those in need allowing them to glean food with the other workers. How could we create similar systems of dignity for those in need?
- Ideas for Question 5 on circumstances that can make people “strangers, exiles or the least of these”: Immigration, Refugee, Poverty, Race under Racialized Structures, Outsider because of ideals, Outsider from cliques, homelessness, prison (a felony in this country literally locks people out of society - most for non-violent drug crimes. This should not be the reality.), Language barriers, etc.

Discussion Questions:

- (1) Read Deuteronomy 24:14-22 together. What observations do you make and what stands out to you? Summarize the passage.
- (2) Read Matthew 25:31-46 together. What observations do you make and what stands out to you? Summarize the passage.
- (3) 为什么耶稣要讲绵羊和山羊的比喻？Why did Jesus talk about the parable of sheep and goats?
- (4) 如果将来主审判人是按着人的行为，这是不是与“因信称义”的教义相冲突？请谈谈你的想法。If the Lord judges people according to their behaviors in the future, does this conflict with the doctrine of justification by faith? Please share your thoughts on this.
- (5) What are the different circumstances that could make someone a “stranger,” “exile,” or the “least of these”? List as many as possible.
- (6) 谁是你生命中的“小弟兄”？面对他们（小弟兄们）信仰和生活上的需要，你是如何做的？Who are the "least brothers" in your life? How do you deal with their faith and needs in life?
- (7) 四、面对将来耶稣台前的审判，对我们今天的信仰、生活、和服侍有哪些提醒？Facing the judgment of Jesus in the future, what reminders do we have for our faith, life, and service today?

Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):

审判台前的相遇

一田灵慧传道。7/26/20

读经：

“「当人子在他荣耀里、同着众天使降临的时候，要坐在他荣耀的宝座上。万民都要聚集在他面前。他要把他们分别出来，好像牧羊的分别绵羊山羊一般，把绵羊安置在右边，山羊在左边。于是王要向那右边的说：『你们这蒙我父赐福的，可来承受那创世以来为你们所预备的国；因为我饿了，你们给我吃，渴了，你们给我喝；我作客旅，你们留我住；我赤身露体，你们给我穿；我病了，你们看顾我；我在监里，你们来看我。』义人就回答说：『主啊，我们什么时候见你饿了，给你吃，渴了，给你喝？什么时候见你作客旅，留你住，或是赤身露体，给你穿？又什么时候见你病了，或是在监里，来看你呢？』王要回答说：『我实在告诉你们，这些事你们既做在我这弟兄中一个最小的身上，就是做在我身上了。』王又要向那左边的说：『你们这被咒诅的人，离开我！进入那为魔鬼和他的使者所预备的永火里去！因为我饿了，你们不给我吃，渴了，你们不给我喝；我作客旅，你们不留我住；我赤身露体，你们不给我穿；我病了，我在监里，你们不来看顾我。』他们也要回答说：『主啊，我们什么时候见你饿了，或渴了，或作客旅，或赤身露体，或病了，或在监里，不伺候你呢？』王要回答说：『我实在告诉你们，这些事你们既不做在我这弟兄中一个最小的身上，就是不做在我身上了。』这些人要往永刑里去；那些义人要往永生里去。』”

马太福音 25:31-46 CUNPSS-神

<https://www.bible.com/48/mat.25.31-46.cunpss-神>

今天目的来看耶稣来时我们所会遇到的。

耶稣分二类人，绵羊山羊。绵羊义人，供给耶稣，山羊不。

经文说主必再来时会有审判，审判按照行为，审判后的生活。如何预备主再来？

一，谁审判者？是耶稣。四福音说耶稣是人子，他说他会再来，第一次降生马槽第二次是荣耀。

为什么讲比喻。讲时在受难中。似乎是软弱的时候。十字架似乎预示失败。耶稣说这都是人的眼光。通过比喻向我们显明，钉十字架不是救赎的终点，他要再来，那时荣耀的审判者。讲这比喻要把他门徒的眼光从当时情况带到将来的再来

二，审判的对象，

万民指所有人。照行为来审判。不是按国家种族才能名望学位。根据行为是义或恶。象启20:11-15 "

我又看见一个白色的大宝座与坐在上面的；从他面前天地都逃避，再无可见之处了。我又看见死了的人，无论大小，都站在宝座前。案卷展开了，并且另有一卷展开，就是生命册。死了的人都凭着这些案卷所记载的，照他们所行的受审判。于是海交出其中的死人；死亡和阴间也交出其中的死人；他们都照各人所行的受审判。死亡和阴间也被扔在火湖里；这火湖就是第二次的死。若有人名字没记在生命册上，他就被扔在火湖里。"

启示录 20:11-15 CUNPSS-神

<https://www.bible.com/48/rev.20.11-15.cunpss-神>

这里的万民指听到过救恩的人或者所有的人

24章指谁？

耶稣再来前的预兆，太24：11，太24：6-7，24：7，24：29

"耶稣在橄榄山上坐着，门徒暗暗地来说：「请告诉我们，什么时候有这些事？你降临和世界的末了有什么预兆呢？」耶稣回答说：「你们要谨慎，免得有人迷惑你们。因为将来有好些人冒我的名来，说：『我是基督』，并且要迷惑许多人。你们也要听见打仗和打仗的风声，总不要惊慌；因为这些事是必须有的，只是末期还没有到。民要攻打民，国要攻打国；多处必有饥荒、地震。

那时，人要把你们陷在患难里，也要杀害你们；你们又要为我的名被万民恨恶。那时，必有许多人跌倒，也要彼此陷害，彼此恨恶；且有好些假先知起来，迷惑多人。只因不法的事增多，许多人的爱心才渐渐冷淡了。惟有忍耐到底的，必然得救。这天国的福音要传遍天下，对万民作见证，然后末期才来到。」"

马太福音 24:3-7, 9-14 CUNPSS-神

<https://www.bible.com/48/mat.24.3-7,9-14.cunpss-神>

"「那些日子的灾难一过去，日头就变黑了，月亮也不放光，众星要从天上坠落，天势都要震动。」"

马太福音 24:29 CUNPSS-神

<https://www.bible.com/48/mat.24.29.cunpss-神>

太35和36耶稣二次来的发生的事

预兆是无花果树，绵羊和山羊，

对于将来有一可知，审判是一定。彼得讲审判从神的家开始。

三，审判的依据是什么？

太25：34-36 "于是王要向那右边的说：『你们这蒙我父赐福的，可来承受那创世以来为你们所预备的国；因为我饿了，你们给我吃，渴了，你们给我喝；我作客旅，你们留我住；我赤身露体，你们给我穿；我病了，你们看顾我；我在监里，你们来看我。』"

马太福音 25:34-36 CUNPSS-神

<https://www.bible.com/48/mat.25.34-36.cunpss-神>

审判之日就是得奖之日或得祸之日。

真信相信遵行神旨意的，外在流露出基督生命的人才是神所喜爱的。外面的行为可以看出他的里面的信心。称主啊主啊不都能进神的国，这包括绵羊山羊。太7：21-23。"「凡称呼我『主啊，主啊』的人不能都进天国；惟独遵行我天父旨意的人才能进去。当那日必有许多人对我说：『主啊，主啊，我们不是奉你的名传道，奉你的名赶鬼，奉你的名行许多异能吗？』我就明明地告诉他们说：『我从来不认识你们，你们这些作恶的人，离开我去吧！』」"

马太福音 7:21-23 CUNPSS-神

<https://www.bible.com/48/mat.7.21-23.cunpss-神>那些有能力的人却被耶稣责备。

雅2：15-16。"若是弟兄或是姊妹，赤身露体，又缺了日用的饮食；你们中间有人对他们说：「平平安安地去吧！愿你们穿得暖，吃得饱」，却不给他们身体所需用的，这有什么益处呢？这样，信心若没有行为就是死的。"

雅各书 2:15-17 CUNPSS-神

<https://www.bible.com/48/jas.2.15-17.cunpss-神>

信心没有行为是死的。

四，谁是生命中的小弟兄？

讲述山羊时，他们没有把耶稣的道和行为联系在一起，

小弟兄：我们自己，让人家帮助，或者帮助人家的人。

在国内侍奉各项活动工作，来美后很多困难。很多压力。从上帝的宠儿变成弃儿。神安慰我。神的话语中得力量，通过周围的人帮助鼓励我。很多愿帮助我。每周帮我一次，英语和学业，教会也帮我。孤独时牧师为我祷告。美国家庭带上超市

。神没有放弃我而让许多人来帮助我。学校设我成牧羊华人学生的牧师，神让我看见，神用我的经历来帮助他人。我开始其他华人的帮助。"我们在一切患难中，他就安慰我们，叫我们能用 神所赐的安慰去安慰那遭各样患难的人。"

哥林多后书 1:4 CUNPSS-神

<https://www.bible.com/48/2co.1.4.cunpss-神>

五，审判的结果

太25：34，41，46。永生或永死。"于是王要向那右边的说：『你们这蒙我父赐福的，可来承受那创世以来为你们所预备的国；

王又要向那左边的说：『你们这被咒诅的人，离开我！进入那为魔鬼和他的使者所预备的永火里去！

这些人要往永刑里去；那些义人要往永生里去。』"

马太福音 25:34, 41, 46 CUNPSS-神

<https://www.bible.com/48/mat.25.34,41,46.cunpss-神>

永死：赛14：11。"你的威势和你琴瑟的声音都下到阴间。你下铺的是虫，上盖的是蛆。"

以赛亚书 14:11 CUNPSS-神

<https://www.bible.com/48/isa.14.11.cunpss-神>

可9：47-49，"倘若你一只眼叫你跌倒，就去掉它；你只有一只眼进入 神的国，强如有两只眼被丢在地狱里。在那里，虫是不死的，火是不灭的。"

马可福音 9:47-48 CUNPSS-神

<https://www.bible.com/48/mrk.9.47-48.cunpss>-神
从现在开始要预备，不知什么时候是我们的最后在地上的日子。

Standing before Christ's judgement seat

Peter Tian

Mat 25:31-46 About the sheep and the goats

Back to zoom worship today

Two weeks ago, Pastor Tian's message were about the citizens of heaven

One week ago, Dr. Moon "no worry", for Jesus is preparing a place in heaven for us, he will be back, "where he is we will be also" therefore today we are living "in waiting".

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Matthew 25:40 NIV

About the Final Judgement, Jesus divide the population into 2 groups, the sheep represent the righteous, the goats the unrighteous. Based on their deeds or responses to the hungry, the thirsty, the strangers, the poor and those in prison etc

"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?'"

Matthew 25:44 NIV

He told us that he would be back, to judge the world, and how he will judge based on our deeds, and the life beyond the final judgement.

How could we get ready to face his second coming?

1. Who is the judge? 25:31 tells us Jesus is the final judge

In all four gospels he claimed as the son of man, and his second coming will be different from 1st (In a poor family on a manger), 2nd will be with angels in glory

He told this parable in the last week of his life before going onto the cross. In the eyes of human perspective, he seem have failed his mission. But he went on the cross, because he loved us, our sins wouldn't be forgiven without shedding blood. In his 2nd coming he will not be judged as in the first time but as a judge, not being humiliated but in glory. He wanted to bring his disciples out from their current dire situation to focus their eyes onto the future, to strengthen their faith

2. Who are the people being judged?

All nations (all people) will be gathered before him, being judged according to what they've done on earth, not based on races, not by academic, wealth, or social standing.

Revelation 20:11-15

The great white throne, the Judgement seat, the book of life

Different scholars interpret this verses differently.

In Mathew 24 & 25, Jesus was talking to his disciples. He started by talking about Jerusalem temple's destruction. False christ, false prophets before his second coming, wars between nations, many natural disasters in the world, the darkening of the moon and the sun. And at his second coming, what he is going to do—to judge this world. He kept using the word "you", to remind them to be on watching, get ready, all claimed him as Lord. His audiences were his disciples. Therefore, all nations can be referred to all people or all his followers and those who have heard about his teaching. All will be judged, none may escape.

Some Christians thought we can be free from the judgement. But apostle peter said judging began first from the household. Similar teaching from Paul

3. what is the judgement based on?

We don't like to be preached about the judgement, but the judgement is true fact. To the true Christians, the day of judgement is the day of rewards, for the unbelievers, the day of punishment.

Based on our compassion and deeds. What about the doctrine teaching that the salvation based on our believe? Our faith must be consistent with our deeds. Not all who claims Jesus are lord are the real followers, your deeds show your believe, reveal your inner being. Matt 4:21-23 "I never knew you, away from me, you evildoers ", not all are sheep, some are goats, even he could prophesy, drive out demons... James 1:27 look after orphans, widows, feed the poor, give them clothes, 2:15-16 faith without feed is dead

4. Who is the "least brother" in our life?

Connect the word of Jesus with our deeds.

When Pastor Tian lived in China before coming to US, he used to visit people in need, doing many different ministries, such as hospitals etc, he felt lost when came to US, didn't understand the language, many pressures, felt deserted, wondered whether coming to US was a good move. Wanted to be with the Lord, even depart from this world. God comforted him through his words, which were not just for preaching sermons but real in his life as well.

Sent an email to the student body, asked for a study partner. worked with a senior. He helped w his English, school work, local church, asked for prayer help. An elder prayed for him and they became a family. When he stayed for two weeks at a sister's house, they visited two supermarkets, bought many food for him, "because we are family". God did not abandon him, prepared him to become his better instrument. He was recruited in campus ministry to help Chinese students at the seminary, to help with airport transport, on Friday dinner with 20 some students. During pandemic, invited students to finish the semester.

Least brother= brother in need

5. Results

Eternal life or eternal punishment

Eternal in heaven or eternal fire which was prepared for the devil and his falling angels.

Mark 9:47-49 deep fear, worms never die, fire never be quenched

God's words are true, so be on watch since we never know which day is the day we will face Jesus again Judgement starts from god's household. With our mouth we confess, our heart we believe, our deeds we demonstrate our faith

Become his mouth to bring comfort, his hand to help those in need), his feet to walk in his way