

THE EYES OF OUR HEARTS ARE OPENED



PSALM 95:1-7 // MATTHEW 25:31-46

MONDAY 11/27/23

Psalm 95:1-7///:1 O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Matthew 25:31-46/// 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

REFLECTION When Jesus Christ returns to earth a second time, He will separate the wicked who are now mixed with the good and holy in the world. When this happens, those who have accepted Christ will live together in the same flock of God. This message was first delivered to God's people by the prophet Ezekiel, a man who was living in exile in the city of Babylon between 593 and 571. Ezekiel 34: 22 reads, "So I will rescue my flock, and they will no longer be abused. I will judge between one animal of the flock and another."

PRAYER I come now before you Lord Jesus and sing praises to your Name. I will make a joyful noise, because you are the rock of our salvation! In Jesus Name, Amen.

TUESDAY 11/28/23

Psalm 95:1-7///:3 For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Matthew 25:31-46/// 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me'.

REFLECTION Jesus is blessing us and His disciples with hope so that we will be more patient and have peace of mind by looking forward to the enjoyment of God's heavenly kingdom. Let us not be weary because we are on the right course. Let us remember daily the beginning of our salvation flows directly from a higher source. Jesus is reminding us our salvation starts with the undeserved favor of God. The verse "Come, you that are blessed by my Father" means someone who is dear to God or loved by God. This phrase gives us a reason to praise God and worship him. Genesis 24: 31 says, "Laban (he was the brother of Rebekah, the woman who married Isaac and bore Jacob) said to him, "Come and stay with us, you who are blessed by the Lord! Why are you standing here outside the town when I have a room all ready for you and a place prepared for the camels?" (NLT) This phrase "you who are blessed by the Lord!" means you acknowledge and give credit to God for all that he owns. In using this language, Christ is describing to us that God has given to us his salvation with the undeserved love he brings upon us. We who are under the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this life are predestined to live an eternal life.

PRAYER Praise you God the Father of my Lord for blessing me with salvation which I do not deserve. For you, Lord Jesus, are King above all kings and God of all gods. In Jesus Name, Amen.

WEDNESDAY 11/29/23

Psalm 95:1-7///:4 In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

Matthew 25:31-46/// 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

REFLECTION Jesus is encouraging us. We are his people who are made not through our conduct but by faith in him. We cannot deny that we receive rewards from our good works, but it depends on adoption first into the Kingdom. 2 Timothy 4:5 says "But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you. 6 As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near." (NLT) Every day we should gain confidence in our faith because we remember we are members of Christ's body. We do good works, not to get salvation, but because we have salvation. We do not deserve Christ, yet God's grace transforms us and gives us a desire to do righteous works. God justifies whom he previously elected. Romans 8:30 says, "And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory." (NLT)



PRAYER Because I was molded by your hands Lord Jesus I now come to you today and ask you continue to give me assurance of faith. Continue to change my heart so I may serve you with joy and great satisfaction. In Jesus Name, Amen.

THURSDAY 11/30/23

Psalm 95:1-7///:5 The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

Matthew 25:31-46/// 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

REFLECTION There is no more doubt about it; Jesus values our deeds of love and compassion towards others. As we grow deeper in our faith we become more humble. In doing so, we begin to accept God's mighty blessings. When we are reluctant to assist the poor and those in need we are acting selfishly. In times of our self absorption we must lift up our eyes to the Son of God. Remember he was willing to give up himself for our salvation. He did not refuse God's request, nor will he refuse us when we go to him. Our reward comes upon us when we start to see just how we are changed by God's love. Luke 6:35 "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate." (NLT).

PRAYER Lord Jesus once again I come to you and thank you for reaching out and changing my heart, mind and soul. Help me to see what you see and hear what you hear as I live among the pagans. In Jesus Christ Name, Amen.

FRIDAY 12/1/23

Psalm 95:1-7///:6 O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

Matthew 25:31-46/// 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, "I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

REFLECTION It is obvious Jesus is making a clear distinction between himself and the devil. Yes, there is a devil and he is all about the evil we see in the world. Please do not be deceived. He is the ruler of darkness, and ruler of death. He is the master of destruction. John Calvin calls his henchmen "devils who are apostate (traitors to God) angels". They once were God's angels who defected to the dark side. The Bible clearly teaches all the wicked will one day face the looming doom of hell. As Christians we have been brought up out of the pit and have a new life under Christ's authority. One day our growth under Christ will be completed and we too will reach perfection. In Ephesians 4:9, notice that it says "he ascended." This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. Verse 10, "And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself. (NLT)"

PRAYER Heavenly Father, creator of everything good and righteous. I come this day to worship you and bow down to you, for you are my one true God. I can depend upon you. Blessed is your Son my Lord Jesus who is my only true helper. In Jesus Christ Name, Amen.

SATURDAY 12/2/23

Psalm 95:1-7///:7a For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Matthew 25:31-46/// 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you? 'Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

REFLECTION One of the amazing things about being a Christian is we have countless opportunities to repeat what Christ had formerly accomplished. That is to spread the good news of God's grace against the tyranny of the devil. We stand unified by God's hand to protect and defend the innocent from the deadly defectors. These tricksters willingly try to deceive God's children. So, therefore let us not be cruel and filled with pride towards those who are poor in material things and also those who are poor in spiritual things. Our Lord warns us to destroy our smugness and be open to mercy and compassion.

PRAYER Repeat the Lord's Prayer today to remind you of God's greatness.

