

June 2, 2024

The Last Judgment – Lesson 9

This morning, we will turn our attention to the issue of rewards. The Greek for reward is *misthos* which is earned for a service rendered.

Matt. 6:4 *...your Father Who sees [your deeds] will reward you...*

Matt. 16:27 *...the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father... and will then reward every man according to his deeds...*

Why are rewards so important to God?

Gen. 15:1 *The Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a Shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." [...I am your Shield, your exceedingly great reward.]"* NKLV

This means that God is the Subject and Substance of each reward. God is revealing something about Himself in each *...reward...*

This is why Jesus told us to *...store up rewards in Heaven...* **[Matt. 6:20]**

Let's look at **Luke 15:11-24** as a picture of God's as our *...great Reward...*

17 ...when [the son] came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! 18 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men."'

In **v. 20-24**, we will see the son's reward upon returning home:

20 "So he got up and came to his father. BUT while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "BUT the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; 23 and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

What is the son's reward? The father is the son's *...great reward...*

And what is the father's message in his rewards? I love you.

This is God's message for us in giving us rewards.

Zeph. 3:17 ...the Lord your God is in your midst, A victorious Warrior. He will exult over you with joy; He will [quiet you] in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy...

Each reward says ...God is love... [1 John 4:8, 16]

With each reward, God is saying:

I have loved you with an everlasting love... [Jer 31:3]

My love for you is a sacrificial love.

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us...

My love for you is a forgiving love.

Eph 1:7 ...in [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses...

My love for you is a reconciling love.

2 Cor 5:19 ...God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them...

So, how are rewards and good deeds connected? In the same way that God is the Subject and Substance of each rewards, He is also the Subject and Substance of our deeds.

Remember how Jesus defined ...good... in **Mark 10:18**? ...no one is good except God alone...

This means that every ...good deed... is a ...God deed...

Because:

God deeds always manifest [Jesus'] love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control [**Gal 5:22-23**].

God deeds show that ...God is at work in [us], both to will and to work for His good pleasure [Phil 2:13].

God deeds prove that we are ...being renewed [**1 Peter 1:23**] ...according to the image [**Gen.1:26**] of [Christ] [**Col 3:10**].

This is why we are told to be ...zealous for good deeds... in **Titus 2:14**.

Next week we will speak about the kinds of ...deeds... that God will reward and about the issue of the loss of rewards.