

A PARABLE FROM MATTHEW'S GOSPEL (based on Matthew 25:31-40)

One day Jesus was talking to his friends. He was telling them a **parable** about how God will judge everyone at the end of time. The story pictures a king sitting on his royal throne with people from all nations gathered around him. He will divide them into two groups, one on his right, the other on his left.

Then he will say to the people on his right,

“Come, you are blessed by my Father.
Come and live in the kingdom,
which has been prepared for you since
the beginning of the world.

When I was hungry you gave me food to eat.

When I was thirsty you gave me something to drink.

When I was a stranger you took me into your home.

When I was without clothes you shared yours with me.

When I was ill you took care of me.

When I was in prison you came to visit me.”

They will say to the king,

“When did we see you hungry and give you food to eat?

When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?

When did we see you a stranger and take you home with us?

When did we see you without clothes and share ours with you?

When did we see you ill and take care of you?

When did we see you in prison and come to visit you?”

And the king will reply,

“Whenever you did these things for any one of my brothers and sisters
you did them for me.”

parable

When we try to explain things to other people, it is often easier to tell them a story. Jesus told stories called parables. A parable does not work out the way people expect. A parable can have more than one meaning and the ending is often surprising.

What does this parable tell you about Jesus?

What do you think the king will say to the group of people on his left?