

# Feast of Christ the King

Ezk 34: 11-16, 20-24; Ps 93; Ephesians 1: 15-23; Matthew 25: 31-46



I have always thought that the Final Judgment needs better public relations. When we mention the Final Judgment, most of us I imagine, think of bad news and start quaking in our boots. The Ikon, above, depicts the Final Judgment in no uncertain terms. Perhaps the one thing that worries us about death is being brought before the Judgement seat of God!

Our gospel today brings us to consider this reality!

There is however time to change!

Last week Helen spoke about talents and the gifts that we have been blessed with. Matthew in chapter 25 asks us to consider how we have used them. As you read through the gospel passage this morning you could ask yourself "Did I...?" I wonder what your response is? Did you feed, clothe, visit...?

If we have listened to too many hellfire preachers this could be a blood curdling gospel. I cannot help thinking that these preachers have not heard:

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*“It is the will of God that all are to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth.”<sup>1</sup>*

God’s plan is not to be thwarted by the weakness, blindness, and occasional malice of people like us. Is God’s work of creation-redemption-glorification to be brought to nothing?

The Final Judgment is the culmination of God’s work of Salvation. In it all things are brought to a head in Christ and God becomes all in all. This is not an itemised list of all the things we have ever done wrong, lusted after, or every unkind deed recalled, this is the moment of God’s mercy over judgement. This is the triumph of God’s love, finding us guilty yet acquitting us! God renders us worthy in spite of our bumbling efforts to be good.

Since we have all sinned and fallen short of God’s glory, none of us go before God blameless. As St. Bernard of Clairvaux says:

God’s love covers the multitude of our sins. God is not like a nagging parent. Jesus has not sold out to the Scribes and Pharisees. The Final Judgement is the triumph of God’s unconditional and parental love over our pathetic human sinfulness. What will happen to sinners who remain fixedly unrepentant? I don’t know. God knows.

Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> 1 Tim 2: 4