



# WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

**31 OCT 2021 | LET OUR FAITH BE REAL! | MATTHEW 25:31-46**

Series : Jesus is Coming Back (Pt 5/5) | Speaker : Pastor Lionel Goh

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## WELCOME

[15 MINS]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)

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## WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. Blessed Assurance (My King is Coming)
  2. Reward
  3. Revelation Song
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## WORD

[45 MINS]

### SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Understand that salvation is based on our faith in Christ.
2. Recognise that good deeds are the fruits of this real faith.
3. Respond by living out our faith by loving and caring for the needy.

## SERMON SUMMARY

When Jesus returns to set up His Millennial Kingdom, He will separate the survivors of the Tribulation as “Goats” and “Sheep”. The Parable of the Goats and Sheep seems to teach that salvation comes from doing kind deeds to needy people. However, when we examine the Bible text deeper, we begin to understand that the Sheep are saved based on their faith in Christ, and their good deeds to the brethren are the fruits of this real faith. The Sheep are blessed and allowed to inherit His Kingdom, whereas the Goats are unbelievers who reject the Gospel and have no capacity to love and care for the needy. They are excluded from the Kingdom because of their disbelief of the Gospel.

Pastor Lionel Goh shared that Jesus is teaching us to live out our true faith in the light of End Times by loving and caring for the needy in our midst.

## SERMON RECAP

### 1. Judgement of Sheep and Goats ([Matthew 25:31-46](#))

When Jesus returns to set up His Millennial Kingdom, He will separate the survivors of the Tribulation as “Goats” and “Sheep”. Pastor Lionel Goh taught that this Sheep and Goat Judgement is not the Great White Throne Judgement which would happen after Satan’s defeat at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. The purpose of the judgement, which applies to all survivors of the Tribulation, is to decide who will live with Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom.

### 2. Does this parable teach that salvation comes by works? `

- a. Are the Sheep saved by their kind acts? (v 34-36)
- b. Are the Goats condemned by their neglect? (v 41-43)

The Parable of the Goats and Sheep seems to teach that salvation comes from doing kind deeds to needy people. However, when we examine the Bible text deeper, we begin to understand that the Sheep are saved based on their faith in Christ, and their good deeds to the brethren are the fruits of this real faith. The Sheep are blessed and allowed to inherit His Kingdom, whereas the Goats are unbelievers who reject the Gospel and have no capacity to love and care for the needy. They are excluded from the Kingdom because of their disbelief of the Gospel.

### 3. Biblical Teaching: We are saved by grace through faith ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#), [Romans 10:9](#))

### 4. Who are these people in parable?

- a. Jesus’ Brothers and Sisters ([Mark 3:33-35](#), [Acts 9:3-5](#))
- b. The Sheep ([Deuteronomy 28:1-2](#), [Ephesians 1:3-5](#))
- c. The Goats ([Deuteronomy 28:15](#), [1 Corinthians 16:22](#), [John 3:16-18](#), [Revelation 21:8](#))

Anyone who does God’s will is Jesus’ brother or sister. Jesus is also not ashamed to call believers His brothers and sisters, and we have the same Father in heaven. Jesus’ Brothers and Sisters are believers who choose to obey God’s will during the Tribulation. Jesus identifies with His people!

The Sheep are believers, God’s blessed people, chosen to inherit His Kingdom from the creation of the world. During the Tribulation, these Sheep make great sacrifices to care for other suffering believers. By their kind and sacrificial deeds, they show that their faith and love are real.

The Goats are unbelievers who reject the Gospel during the Tribulation. They have no capacity to show compassion to Jesus’ brothers and sisters in times of great hardship! They are the cursed ones and are destined for eternal fire.

### 5. Gist of Parable: Jesus expects His Sheep to care for their fellow believers in times of needs ([James 2:14-17](#))

- The kind acts of the Sheep show their faith to be genuine!

6. **Another Expectation of God: That we help our needy neighbours** ([Proverbs 3:27-28](#))

7. **Practical Application:**

- Community Outreach Initiatives
- Our Suffering Brothers Overseas

Let's show our faith to be real by loving others practically. Pastor Lionel Goh encouraged us to prayerfully consider and respond in faith to serve in various initiatives in community outreach and missions. Jesus is teaching us to live out our true faith in the light of End Times by loving and caring for the needy in our midst.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read [Matthew 25:31-46](#). What is the basis for people to be separated as Sheep and Goats? [15 Mins]
2. Re-read [Matthew 25:31-33](#). Unlike the other earlier parables in the book of Matthew, this parable starts with the fact of Jesus Christ's glorious return. In [Hebrews 9:27](#), it is written that "it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgement." These are unpopular and uncomfortable subjects to think or talk about. With the perspective of the Judgement of the Sheep and Goats, how ready are you for the Day of Judgement? [10 Mins]
3. Jesus identifies Himself especially with the needy – see [Matthew 25:40](#). Every time we neglect to help a brother or sister in need, we neglect Jesus Himself. Let us not forget to reach out to others as we are asked to. Who are the needy that God has placed in your life and what can you do to reach out to them? [15 Mins]



Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. **Sermon Application**

- We will be secure in our faith in Jesus Christ as the basis of our salvation.
- We will be on a constant lookout to help the needy people that God has placed in our lives.
- We will show our faith to be real by loving others practically.

2. **COVID-19 in Singapore**

- God's continual intervention as we extend the Stabilisation Phase.
- God's protection as we learn to live with COVID and begin to open up our borders.
- God's hand to alleviate the sufferings, and for practical help to arise and be rendered to these suffering communities, especially the old and the vulnerable.

3. **COVID-19 in the World**

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.

- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.

#### 4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

[5 MINS]

1. **New Pulpit Series - Rediscovering Church (Ephesians).** As we enter the month of November, we will embark on a new four-part sermon series entitled Rediscovering Church. The pandemic has disrupted the way we worship, relate and serve in church, and changed how our cells and ministries function. We hope that this sermon series, based on Ephesians 1 to 4, will help us realise the importance of belonging to community and receive fresh revelation on what it truly means to be the Church especially during such a time.
2. **November Midweek Equipping - The Will of God vs. The Will of Man (The Calvinist-Arminian debate).** Our next midweek equipping series is a 3-part session starting the following Wednesday, on 10 November. The guest speaker will be David Lim, Academic Dean of Acts College.
3. **In-Person Worship Services From 1-30 Nov.** In view of the extension made to the Stabilisation Period, our existing service timings will continue for another month until the end of Nov - there will only be one in-person service at 9am for English Adults on Sundays. The capacity remains at 300 congregants. Our Youth service will increase its capacity to 150 pax in-person.
4. **Missions from Home.** What does Missions look like when we're unable to travel? We believe God is calling RiverLifers to sow continually and faithfully into the nations by partnering Him and adapting in the way we approach Missions. We have 104 RiverLifers who have signed up for 9 MFH teams, reaching out to India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand. Over the next few months, they will be collaborating with our Missions Partners to develop missions projects that provide prayer support, resources and raise awareness for their ministries. We encourage all to get involved by praying, giving, or serving. Find out more about the different countries we're working with: [rlc.sg/mfh](https://rlc.sg/mfh). Join a MFH team: [rlc.sg/mfh-serve](https://rlc.sg/mfh-serve)
5. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>
6. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.

## ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

**1. PayNow**

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this *QR code* on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200100806D*.

**2. Interbank Transfer**

RiverLife Church Bank Account: *DBS Autosave 029-902431-0*  
Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



## ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

**PayNow**

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*Kindly indicate your NRIC No. under the Bill Reference to qualify for tax deduction.*

