



“THE LEAST OF THESE, SHEEP VS. GOATS (PART II)”

MATTHEW 25:40 BIBLE STUDY

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BEWARE OF
KNOCKOFFS

- For **false** messiahs and **false** prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to **deceive**, if possible, even the elect. (Mt 24:24, NIV)
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WORTH MORE
THAN ANYTHING

- 45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for **fine pearls**. 46 When he found one of **great value**, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.
(Mt 13:45-46, NIV)



BEWARE OF KNOCKOFFS



- **“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.
(Mt 7:15, NIV)**





CONTEXT

- 31 When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and with all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the [royal] throne of His glory. 32 And all the peoples will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And He will place the sheep on His right and the goats on the left. 34 Then the **King** will say to those on His right, "Come you who have been blessed by my Father, inherit the **Kingdom** that has been prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (Mt 25:31-34, AT)
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CONTEXT

- For I was [1] hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was [2] thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink, I was a [3] stranger, and you welcomed Me as a guest; [4] inadequately clothed [lit. naked], and you clothed Me; I was [5] sick, and you visited Me [to care for me]; I was [6] in prison, and you came to Me [to visit]. (Mt 25:35-36, AT)
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CONTEXT

- 37 Then the righteous will reply to Him, "Lord, when(ever) did we see you when you were [1] hungry and feed you, or when(ever) were you [2] thirsty and we gave you something to drink? 38 And when(ever) did we see you [as] a [3] stranger, and welcome you as a guest; or [4] inadequately clothed, and we clothed you? 39 And when(ever) did we see you when you were [5] sick or [6] in prison, and we came (to visit) you? (Mt 25:37-39, AT)
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MATTHEW 25:40
THE LEAST OF THESE...

- And replying, the King will say to them,
"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one
of the **least** [ἐλάχιστος | *elachistos*] of **these**
brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me."
(Mt 25:40, AT)



MATTHEW 25:40
THE LEAST OF THESE...



Whoever is kind to the **poor** lends to the LORD [YHWH],
and he will **reward** them for what they have done.

(Pr 19:17, NIV)





MATTHEW 25:40
THE LEAST OF THESE...

- For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will **reward** each person according to **what they have done**. (Mt 16:27, NIV)
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MATTHEW 25:40
DIVINE WITH-NESS



- "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and they shall call Him by the name, Immanuel" (which is translated, "God **With Us**"). (Mt 1:23, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40
DIVINE WITH-NESS



- For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”
(Mt 18:20, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40 DIVINE WITH-NESS



- 18 And having come near, Jesus spoke to them saying, "All authority in heaven and on the earth has been given to Me." 19 Go, therefore, [and] make disciples of all nations, baptizing them **in the name of** the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And, listen: I am **with** you always – until the consummation of the age. (Mt 28:18-20, AT)



MATTHEW 25:40
DIVINE WITH-NESS



- Don't you know that you yourselves are **God's temple** and that **God's Spirit dwells in your midst?**
(1 Cor 3:16, NIV)





MATTHEW 25:40
DIVINE WITH-NESS



- 19 Do you not know that **your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.**
(1 Cor 6:19-20, NIV)





MATTHEW 25:40
DIVINE WITH-NESS



- You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the **Spirit**, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if **anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.** (Rom 8:9, NIV)





MATTHEW 25:40
SHEEP FOLLOW
THE SHEPHERD



- 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever **wants to be my disciple** must **deny themselves** and **take up their cross** and **follow me**. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?
(Mt 16:24-26, NIV)





MATTHEW 25:40
SHEEP FOLLOW
THE SHEPHERD



- For whoever is **ashamed of me and my words** in this adulterous and sinful generation, **the Son of Man will be ashamed of them** when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels. (Mk 8:38, AT)





MATTHEW 25:40
SHEEP FOLLOW
THE SHEPHERD



- For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will **reward** each person according to what they have done. (Mt 16:27, NIV)





MATTHEW 25:40
SHEEP FOLLOW
THE SHEPHERD



- Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, **sell your possessions and give to the poor**, and you will have **treasure in heaven**. Then **come, follow me.**” (Mt 19:21, NIV)





MATTHEW 25:40
THE LEAST
OF THESE



- Adjective: μικρός (*mikros*) = **small or little**,
- Comparative: ἐλάσσων (*elassōn*) = **smaller or littler**
- Superlative: ἐλάχιστος (*elachistos*) = **smallest or least**





MATTHEW 25:40
THE LEAST
OF THESE

- Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is **least** [*μικρός* | *mikros*] in the **kingdom of heaven** is greater than he. (Mt 11:11, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40
THE LEAST
OF THESE



- 6 “If anyone causes one of these **little ones** [μικρός | *mikros*] —**those who believe in me**—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea (Mt 18:6, NIV)



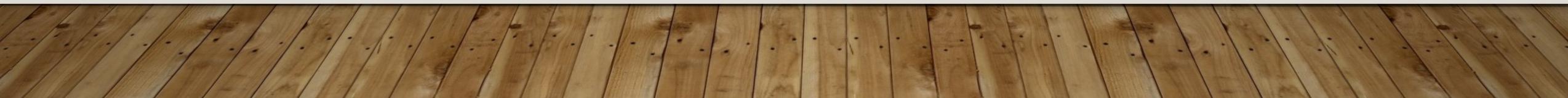


MATTHEW 25:40
THE LEAST
OF THESE



- **7 Woe** to the world because of the things that cause people to **stumble!** Such things must come, but **woe to the person through whom they come!** **8** If your hand or your foot causes you to **stumble**, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to **enter life** maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be **thrown into eternal fire.** **9** And if your eye causes you to **stumble**, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to **enter life** with one eye than to have two eyes and be **thrown into the fire of hell.**

(Mt 18:7-9, NIV)





MATTHEW 25:40
THE LEAST
OF THESE



- See that you do not despise one of these **little ones** [μικρός | *mikros*]
...(Mt 18:10a, NIV)





MATTHEW 25:40
THE LEAST
OF THESE

- In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these **little ones** [μικρός | *mikros*] should perish. (Mt 18:14, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40
BROTHERS AND SISTERS
OF/IN CHRIST

- 46 While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his **mother** and **brothers** stood outside, wanting to speak to him. 47 Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” 48 He replied to him, “**Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?**” 49 Pointing to his disciples, he said, “**Here are my mother and my brothers.** 50 For whoever **does the will of my Father** in heaven is **my brother** and **sister** and **mother.**” (Mt 12:46-50, NIV)



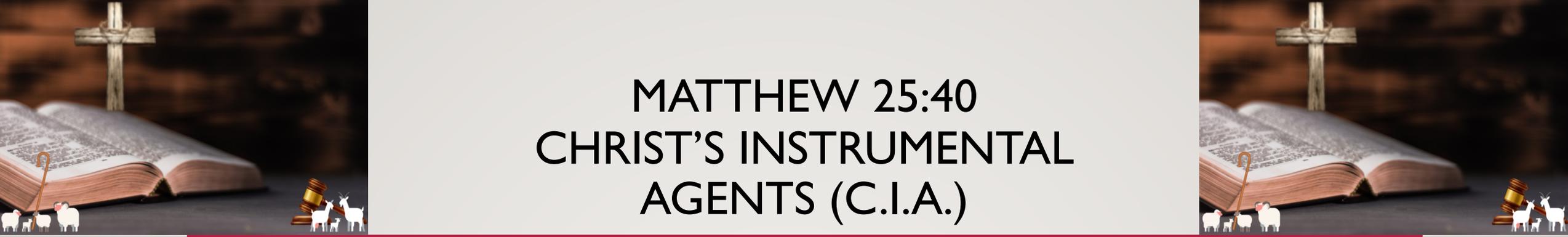
MATTHEW 25:40
BROTHERS AND SISTERS
OF/IN CHRIST

- Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my **brothers** to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”
(Mt 28:10, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40
BROTHERS AND SISTERS
OF/IN CHRIST

- Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are **of the same family**. So **Jesus** is not ashamed to call them **brothers and sisters**. (Heb 2:11, NIV)



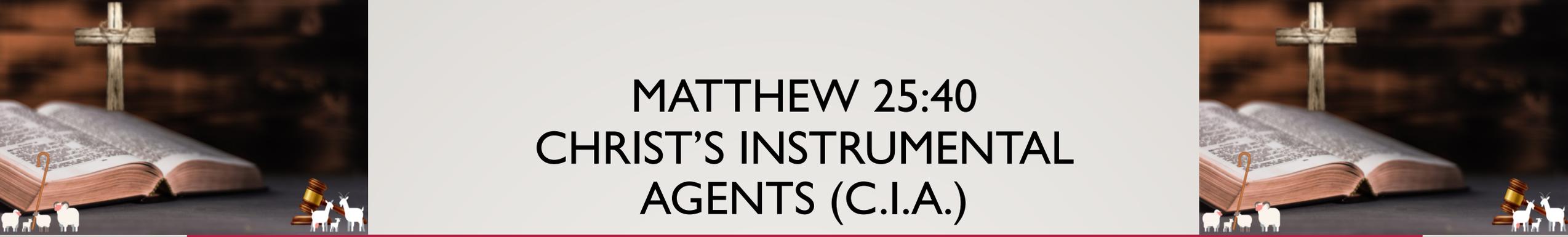
MATTHEW 25:40
CHRIST'S INSTRUMENTAL
AGENTS (C.I.A.)

- 9 “Do not get any **gold or silver or copper** to take with you in your belts—10 **no bag** for the journey or **extra shirt or sandals or a staff**, for the worker is worth his keep. 11 Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and **stay at their house** until you leave. (Mt 10:9-11, NIV)
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MATTHEW 25:40
CHRIST'S INSTRUMENTAL
AGENTS (C.I.A.)

- 12 As you enter the home, give it your greeting. 13 If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. 14 **If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words**, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. 15 Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on **the day of judgment** than for that town. (Mt 10:12-15, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40
CHRIST'S INSTRUMENTAL
AGENTS (C.I.A.)

- 16 “I am sending you out like **sheep** among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. 17 Be on your guard; **you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues.** 18 On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles (Mt 10:16-18, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40
CHRIST'S INSTRUMENTAL
AGENTS (C.I.A.)

- 23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in [6] **prison** more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been [5] **exposed to death again and again**. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, (2 Cor 11:23-25, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40
CHRIST'S INSTRUMENTAL
AGENTS (C.I.A.)

- 26 I have been **constantly on the move**. [3] I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. 27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known [1] **hunger** and [2] **thirst** and have often gone without food; I have been cold and [4] **naked** (2 Co 11:26-27, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40
CHRIST'S INSTRUMENTAL
AGENTS (C.I.A.)

- 40 “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a **righteous** person will receive a **righteous** person’s reward. 42 And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these **little ones** [μικρός | *mikros*] who is **my disciple**, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.” (Mt 10:40-42, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40
CHRIST'S INSTRUMENTAL
AGENTS (C.I.A.)

- Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out **murderous threats** against the **Lord's disciples**. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who **belonged to the Way**, whether men or women, he might **take them as prisoners** to Jerusalem. (Ac 9:1-2, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40
CHRIST'S INSTRUMENTAL
AGENTS (C.I.A.)

3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute **me**?”

5 “Who are **you**, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am **Jesus**, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

(Ac 9:3-5, NIV)





MATTHEW 25:40
CHRIST'S INSTRUMENTAL
AGENTS (C.I.A.)



- **Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.”**
(Jn 13:20, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40
FAITHFUL, FRUITFUL
FOLLOWERS

- 5 he saved us, **not because of righteous things we had done**, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal **by the Holy Spirit**, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, (Ti 3:5-6, NIV)



MATTHEW 25:40
BE FAITHFUL
FOR LIFE



- I told you that you would die in your sins; **if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.**”
(Jn 8:24, NIV)





MATTHEW 25:40
BE FAITHFUL
FOR LIFE



- **Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them. (Jn 3:36, NIV)**





MATTHEW 25:40
BE FAITHFUL
FOR LIFE



- As for you, you were **dead** in your transgressions and sins, (Eph 2:1, NIV)





MATTHEW 25:40
BE FAITHFUL
FOR LIFE



- 8 For it is by **grace you have been saved, through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—9 **not by works**, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Eph 2:8-10, NIV)

