

Field & Stream Living: Aiming for the Ultimate Prize

Mt. 25:31-46

Sermon AIM: The overall aim for this sermon is to help people understand that we have to make the conscious choice of practically living out our faith each day for we are called by God to do so and we will be held accountable for our actions or lack of actions in our lifespan.

Four Steps in Aiming for the Ultimate Prize

Step #1 – Understand the Stakes (v. 31-32)

- **Romans 14:10-12** – You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. It is written: “‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’” So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.
- This main point will focus on helping people understand the basic principle that there will be a day of judgment on which EVERY created being will stand before the Creator of the Universe and give an account of the way they lived or threw away their life. NO ONE will escape judgment, everyone will know on that day that there is a God and he means business.

Step #2 – Enter into the Competition (v. 32-33)

- **Mt. 24:45-51 (The Message)** – ⁴⁵ "Who here qualifies for the job of overseeing the kitchen? A person the Master can depend on to feed the workers on time each day. ⁴⁶ Someone the Master can drop in on unannounced and always find him doing his job. A God-blessed man or woman, I tell you. ⁴⁷ It won't be long before the Master will put this person in charge of the whole operation. ⁴⁸ "But if that person only looks out for himself, and the minute the Master is away does what he pleases— ⁴⁹ abusing the help and throwing drunken parties for his friends— ⁵⁰ the Master is going to show up when he least expects it ⁵¹ and make hash of him. He'll end up in the dump with the hypocrites, out in the cold shivering, teeth chattering.
- This main point will focus on helping people understand that the choices they make in their lives and how they use their lives for or against God will determine if they are a sheep or a goat. Everyone is in this great competition even if they do not realize it and each person is one or the other. We are all judged by the same standard because we are all created in the image of God therefore our choices are what make the determination in God’s eyes.

Step #3 – Take Aim and Fire (v. 34-36, 41-43)

- **Mt. 21:42-44** – Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.”
- This main point will focus on helping people become more conscious about living for the Lord in a practical way with their lives. We are called to be men and women, Christians, of action not passive separatists.

Step #4 – Win the Prize (v. 37-40, 45-46)

- **Mt. 25:21,29-30** – “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ ... For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
- **Philippians 3:12-14** – Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
- This main point will help people remember and focus that each day we are called to live for the prize of heaven. We can only live for this prize by living for Jesus and exhibiting the fruit of our salvation.

Memory Verse:

Mt. 25:40 – The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

