

WORSHIPing, GROWing, and SERVing leads to Deep and Wide.  
**Deep** being love of God and **Wide** being love of neighbor.

31 "But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. 34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. 36 I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.' 37 "Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

(Matthew 25.31-40 NLT)

**COMPARISON WITH JESUS' BIRTH NARRATIVE**

- 1) Jesus returns in glory vs. humbly to a dangerous situation
- 2) Angels accompany him.
- 3) Sits on a throne vs. sleeps in a manger

The righteous have something in common which are acts of mercy.

(These aren't meant to be an all inclusive but a representative one.)

19 Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!"

(Matthew 4.19 NLT)

**COMPARISON WITH THE CALL OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES**

Jesus bids the first disciples to "Come and follow" and he bids all disciples at the end to "Come and inherit". The ones who followed Jesus, as evidenced by their acts of mercy, are invited to inherit a "kingdom" prepared before the foundation of the world.

**Jesus' invitation / request was to follow.**

- There is a difference between following and simply accepting into our heart which is how we often talk about a conversion experience.
- There is a difference between following and doing good works in hopes to "make the cut" into heaven.
- There is a big difference between following and being religious for fire insurance.

8 God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. 9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

(Ephesians 2.8-10 NLT)

**Salvation is based on faith alone. True faith is evidenced and allows doing good things (ie. serving) for God and others.**

**Doing good (serving) is often:**

- 1.) inefficient
- 2.) Inconvenient
- 3.) Incomplete
- 4.) Uncomfortable

**A Christian's defining mark is SERVING out of obedience and not guilt or manipulation.**

Notes: