**Reflections-11-26-17**

**Christ’s Presence, Inheritance, God’s Grace**

***“How did you get here?”***

**Matthew 25:31-46**

1. Jesus tells a story about “the end times” when the Son of Man comes in his glory and separates the people of the world as a shepherd separates sheep from the goats. And the king says to the sheep, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you.” And then the king says to the goats “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire.” This story reveals that there will be a judgment day. Does this text bring you feelings peace or uncertainty? Where do you feelings come from?
2. Some people would interpret this text as “work-righteousness” meaning that you have to earn salvation by loving “the least of these”. But the text says the sheep will “inherit” the kingdom. What do you think Jesus was trying to say?
3. The sheep answered the King, “Lord, when was it that we saw you ….?” Do you think Jesus, or at least the presence of God surrounds our life every day?
4. Pastor Glen asked the congregation how they made it through the tough times of their life. Do you agree with Pastor Glen that God sends people to you to function as a healer in your times of distress?
5. Pastor Glen asks the question, “How did you get here?” Could it be that God’s been guiding you your whole life but it’s not always obvious? Do you believe that God works outside of the church as well as inside the church? Explain.

**Matthew 25:31-46**

31 ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” 37Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” 40And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” 41Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” 44Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” 45Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’