

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: December 29, 2019
Renewal
Rev 21:1-6a; Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Mt 25:31-46

1. Read Revelation 21:1-6a. How does what God is showing John (and us) in 21:1-2 relate to what we talked about in our last Advent Bible Study?
 - a. I don't know, I wasn't here.
 - b. We talked about "see"ing a new future...the possibilities of God's plan for us.
 - c. We talked about the Way of Holiness leading to "Zion." Here, God is showing us the new Jerusalem. This is the same sort of vision that Isaiah saw in chapter 35.

2. Why is heaven (the dwelling place of God) called the "new" Jerusalem? _____

Why is there a need for a new Jerusalem? _____
What does God say in verse 5? _____

Does God only make things new at the end, or do you think God's intention is to make things new even during our life and the course of His creation here on earth? Explain.

3. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-13. What does this tell us about seasons and cycles of life? _____

Has God instituted them? _____
Does God have a purpose for them? _____
Do you suppose it is a coincidence that we celebrate the New Year...and other cultures around the world do as well? _____

Should we use these cycles as times of reflection and allow God to make things new?

4. Read Matthew 25:31-46. While the Revelation text celebrates the culmination of what we expect in Advent, Matthew notes a separation that will occur. How, according to this text does he separate "the sheep" from "the goats"?
 - a. He didn't, everybody get's in!
 - b. Based on how they sang in church.
 - c. Based on whether they asked for forgiveness.
 - d. Based on how we treated Jesus.
 - e. Based on what they did for "the least of these"
 - f. Based on how we treated God's own children who he loves.

5. What, according to verse 41 & 46, did Jesus tell those who had not cared for Him and those He cared about? _____

6. Are there specific changes that we need to make in our lives during this time of renewal?
