

“Standing Before God”

Revelation

I knelt to pray when day was done,
And prayed, "O Lord, bless everyone;
Lift from each saddened heart the pain,
And let the sick be well again."

And then I woke another day
And carelessly went on my way.
The whole day long I did not try
To wipe a tear from an eye;
I did not try to share the load
Of any brother on my road;
I did not even go to see
The sick man just next door to me.

**Yet once again when day was done
I prayed, "O Lord, bless everyone."
But as I prayed, into my ear
there came a voice
that whispered clear;
"Pause, hypocrite, before you pray,
Whom have you tried to bless today?
God's sweetest blessing always go
By hands that serve Him here below."
And then I hid my face, and cried,
"Forgive me, God, for I have lied;
Let me but see another day
And I will live the way I pray."**

Matthew 25:31-46 (NIV)

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?

When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"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.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

**For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,
I was a stranger and you did not invite me in,
I needed clothes and you did not clothe me,
I was sick and in prison and you did not
look after me.'**

**"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we
see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger
or needing clothes or sick or in prison,
and did not help you?'**

**"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever
you did not do for one of the least of these,
you did not do for me.'**

**"Then they will go away to eternal punishment,
but the righteous to eternal life."**