

CHAPTER 18: A SOCIETY WITH PERSPECTIVE

GOSPEL READINGS: Mark 14:25, Matthew 25:31-46

1. What words or images come to mind when you think about heaven?
2. Now...think of your perfect vacation spot. How are heaven and that “spot” similar/different?
3. When Jesus describes the “kingdom of heaven” in Matthew 25, he uses 3 parables that speak of preparedness and expectation. Why do you think Jesus’ teachings contain such details?
4. McKnight points out that these depictions (through parables) illustrate “the end as the beginning.”
 - a. How are we meant to live *now* in light of the promised judgment (Matthew 25:32-37)?
 - b. If eternal fellowship is our intended experience, how does our love of God and others *in this life* preparing us?
 - c. What do you make of Thomas à Kempis’ advice, “practice now what you’ll have to put into practice then”?
5. If heaven is truly an eternal society that is built on knowing and loving God, how might living the *Jesus Creed* daily be preparing us?
 - a. What are we learning about eternal worship?
 - b. What are we learning about personal familiarity and fellowship with God? (ie. eternal communion)
6. McKnight suggests reading the bible *Abba-centrally* as opposed to *informationally*. What does he mean by this?
 - a. When you read the Bible, are you learning about love or learning *to* love?
 - b. What habits of study or discipline could you employ to deepen your *fellowship with God*?
 - c. How might your fellowship *with others* be enriched by having an eternal perspective?

Next week » Chapter 19: Believing in Jesus (begins a new section!)