

## Pentecost: In His Glory

*by Eldon Weisheit*

### A Choral Reading of Matthew 25:31-46

#### Cast

- Reader (standing at podium in the center)
- 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (standing on the reader's right)
- A, B, C, D and E (standing to the reader's left)

Reader: The Bible reading for today is from Matthew's gospel, chapter 25, beginning at the 31st verse: "When the Son of Man comes in His glory..."

A: "In His glory?" What's that?

B: Sounds like a foreign car. Probably made in Greece.

C: I think it's one of those new airplanes—the Glory 657 or something like that.

D: No, it's a new kind of suit. I saw Justin Bieber in a glory suit the other night.

Reader: When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him...

2: Wow! He'll come with angels.

5: With all of His angels.

4: The event is so important that none of the angels will have to stay behind to tend the store.

3: And none of the angels will be on duty guarding our ways to keep us from striking our feet against a stone.

1: But we'll never get to see that kind of glory.

Reader: When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory.

E: Now He has a throne in heavenly glory.

A: I didn't think His glory was a car or an airplane.

D: Well, He can't travel around in a throne. Maybe His throne of heavenly glory came out of His glory car.

C: Maybe it came out of the Glory 657. I hear they're fancy.

B: Let's face it. We don't know what His glory is.

D: But we should find out. We might like some of His glory, too.

E: And He might share it with us. He's nice that way.

Reader: When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory.

5: Imagine! A throne of heavenly glory!

3: I bet it's made of ivory and gold with diamonds all over.

2: No, I think it will be made of light and energy—so bright that we won't be able to look at it.

4: But we'll hear the music.

3: No, we'll never get that close to His glory.

1: Won't they have a microphones so everyone can hear?

5: I don't care if we get to see or hear it. I just want to know when it happens.

Reader: All the nations will be gathered before Him.

C: All the nations?

A: I wonder if that means just the nations that exist today or all that have ever existed.

E: Well, I hope they don't put us next to the Arabs.

B: I don't want to be next to one of those tribes that goes naked.

C: We vacationed in Central America last summer. You should see some of the beautiful figurines I bought. But, frankly, those people don't smell good. I don't want to be near them.

D: Don't worry about it. I'm sure our nation will have a good spot. After all, He always takes good care of us.

Reader: 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.

4: How does a shepherd separate sheep from goats?

2: Maybe by their smell. I've heard that goats stink.

1: Anyone can tell a sheep from a goat. How He does it is not the problem.

4: Then the question is: Why? Why does the shepherd separate the goats from the sheep?

3: Because the goats serve one purpose and the sheep another.

5: If they were all the same, He wouldn't have to separate them.

1: Then will He separate us according to our purpose?

2: Or according to the way we have followed His purpose?

4: I'm afraid we don't know enough about shepherds.

3: Or maybe we don't know how to be sheep.

Reader: 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."

2: Us? Do you mean us?

4: Come, with you? Forever?

5: A kingdom prepared for us!

1: Blessed by your Father?

Reader: 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."

C: Who do you think you're talking to?

D: There must be some mistake.

A: Eternal fire?

E: I appeal to a higher court.

B: But we've always called you our Lord.

Reader: (to the right) For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.

3: Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?

Reader: (to the left) For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat.

D: Lord, when did we see you hungry?

Reader: (to the right) I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.

2: When did I see you thirsty and give you something to drink?

Reader: (to the left) I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink.

C: When did I see you thirsty and give you nothing to drink?

Reader: (to the right) I was a stranger and you invited me in.

4: When did we see you a stranger and invite you in?

Reader: (to the left) I was a stranger and you did not invite me in.

A: I never saw you as a stranger. I've always known you.

Reader: (to the right) I needed clothes and you clothed me.

5: Lord, when did I clothe you?

Reader: (to the left) I needed clothes and you did not clothe me.

B: I never saw you without clothes. I don't go around looking at naked people.

Reader: (to the right) I was sick and you looked after me.

1: When did I see you sick, Lord?

Reader: (to the left) I was sick and you did not look after me.

E: I'm sure you've never been seriously ill, Lord. I mean, with your miracles and everything. But if you were, I'm sorry. If I had known about it, I'd have sent you a card.

Reader: (to the right) I was in prison and you came to visit me.

4: I have visited prisons, Lord, but I didn't know you were there.

Reader: (to the left) I was in prison and you did not look after me.

D: Well, you can hardly expect everyone to visit a prison. And you were jailed such a short time. Only overnight, if I remember correctly. Besides, I wasn't living then.

E: There must be some mistake. You've known us for a long time.

C: We've always gone to church.

A: And served on committees.

B: And attended conventions.

C: We've done the things we thought were important.

D: Remember the beautiful banners we made to praise you?

E: Remember how often we sang our praise to you?

B: One of the songs is about your glory. We do know about your glory. Come on. Let's sing it.

A, B, C, D, E: (perhaps with a choir) Glory be to God on high:  
and on earth peace, good will toward men.  
We praise Thee,  
We bless Thee,  
We worship Thee,  
We glorify Thee,  
We give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. (LSB pg. 187)

Reader: (to the left) 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.

A, B, C, D, E: 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?

Reader: (to the left) I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.

B: The least?

C: The least of all of these?

D: Of all nations?

C: The people we don't even know?

A: We would have helped you, Lord, but these...

E: Not just anyone who comes along.

D: Some people just don't want help. How are we to know whom we are to help?

Reader: Then they will go away to eternal punishment. (A, B, C, D, E leave)

Reader: (to the right) Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

2: Why us, Lord?

5: We did not recognize your glory.

4: We do not deserve your reward.

1: We don't want hell, but we don't deserve heaven.

Reader: 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.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5: 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?

Reader: I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.

1: You mean you were there when we visited the nursing home?

5: You were there when we sent clothing to India?

3: We prayed in your name when we visited in prison, but I never realized...

4: You were with me when I read to Mrs. Ellis.

2: You know about the food for the Dunman family.

Reader: I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5: (perhaps with a choir) Glory be to God on high:  
 And on earth peace, good will toward men.  
 We feed you,  
 We clothe you,  
 We invite you,  
 We look after you,  
 We give thanks to you for your great glory.

1: That is His glory.

5: Not gold and ivory, but food for the hungry, water for the thirsty.

3: Not diamonds, but clothing for the poor.

4: Not light and energy, but company for the lonely.

2: Not special effects, but special services.

Reader: And all the angels with Him and He will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

4: He shares in our lives.

5: And we share His glory with others.

1: We have lived in His glory and didn't know it.

3: We have loved because He first loved us.

Reader: Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

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