

For the Love of an Imperative Verb Matthew 25:31-46

The Last Sunday after Pentecost, Christ the King, Year A

³¹[Jesus said] “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** [δεῦτε, **deûte**], you that are blessed by my Father, **inherit** [κληρονομήσατε, **klēronomēsate**] 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.’ ³⁷The 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** [πορεύεσθε, **poreúesthe**] 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.” [NRSV89]

25:34

δεῦτε, **deûte**; *vb: pres act imperative 2nd pers pl* from δεῦτε:

translations: **come** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NIV11, NJB, NKJV, NRSVue; Filson],
also **venid** [IAdNT]

κληρονομήσατε, **klēronomēsate**; *vb: aor act imperative 2nd pers pl* from κληρονομέω:

translations: **inherit** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NGEINT, NKJV, NRSVue; Filson], **take . . . heritage** [NJB], **take . . . inheritance** [NIV11], also **heredad** [IAdNT]

25:41

πορεύεσθε, **poreúesthe**; *vb: pres mid / pass imperative 2nd pers pl* from πορεύω

translations: **depart** [NRSV89, ESV, NAB, NIV11, NKJV, NRSVue; Filson], also **go**

[NGEINT, NJB], **go away** [Albright & Mann], **idos** [IAdNT]

Filson: “. . . They are banished. It is certainly permanent separation” [p. 268.]

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Gene Crossett, Jr.

March 7, 2023

April 14, 2023