

November 22, 2020

Esther and Emmett, Apples and Oranges, Sheep and Goats

(Emmett has some apples and oranges in front of him. He is separating them into two piles)

Esther: Hi Emmett...what are you doing?

Emmett: Oh, hi Esther. I'm just separating the sheep from the goats.

Esther: (looks around) I just see apples and oranges.

Emmett; Well, I couldn't find any sheep or goats, so I decided to use apples and oranges instead.

Esther: That's very resourceful of you.

Emmett: Thank you. So, the oranges are the sheep. They are on my right side. And the apples are the goats. They are on my left side.

Esther: Wait...I think I know why you are doing this!

Emmett: I am doing....

Esther: BIBLE STUDY!

Emmett: That's right! I'm recreating one of Jesus' stories.

Esther: The story of the sheep and the goats!

Emmett: Yes...although in the future it may be known as the story of the oranges and the apples!

Esther: It's based on the practice of shepherds separating the sheep from the goats.

Emmett: Saying, 'Sheep, you gather on my right hand-side, and goats on my left.

Esther: And then what happened?

Emmett: I don't know. That's as far as I've gotten in my Bible Study. It took me awhile to get the apples and oranges out of the fridge!!

Esther: Would you like me to tell you the rest of the story?

Emmett: Yes please. I love it when you tell me Jesus stories.

Esther: Well, in the story the king gathers people from all the nations of the world...

Emmett: Wow! That's a lot of people.

Esther: It certainly is.

Emmett: Should I get some more apples and oranges?

Esther: No, these will be fine.

Emmett: Okay.

Esther: So the king begins to talk to all the people. He tells some of them to gather on his right hand side...

Emmett: Those would be the orange people...

Esther: And some to gather on his left hand side...

Emmett: And those would be the apple people. So far, this story seems to be bearing fruit!!!

Esther: Ha Ha! The king tells the people on his right that they are blessed because they fed him when they saw him hungry, and gave him something to drink when he was thirsty, and cared for him when he was sick.

Emmett: They probably made orange juice for him!

Esther: And the king said that the people on his left hand side had seen him hungry and thirsty and sick and not done anything to help him.

Emmett: I guess that in this case, an apple a day kept more than just the doctor away!...but why didn't those people help the king? Wouldn't everyone want to help the king?

Esther: It's because the people who were hungry, and thirsty and sick, were not actually the king?

Emmett: Huh? They weren't the king? But the king just said...oh...ya, Jesus was telling this story. We shouldn't expect it be as clear as apple and oranges!

Esther: The king said that when the people on the right...the orange people...helped people who were hungry, thirsty or sick, it was as if they were helping the king.

Emmett: Sure... that makes sense...no it doesn't!

Esther: I think the king was saying that we should treat everyone as if they were a king, or a queen, or a friend, ...or as if they were Jesus.

Emmett: Well, I'd certainly give some food to Jesus. Do you think he likes oranges and apples?

Esther: I'm sure he does. And I'm sure that Jesus wants us to see everyone as special, as a child of God, as someone we should care about.

Emmett: So, we should love everyone! Hey, that sounds like something Jesus would say!

Esther: Jesus did say it. God says it. God loves everyone, so we should love everyone.

Emmett: And that concludes another fruitful Bible study!

Esther: Amen to that.

Emmett: Amen.