

Matthew 25 –8 March 2020

“Know You’re Ready To See Jesus”

Introduction

Christ has been in Jerusalem for the last week of His earthly ministry and life.

In the midst of His agony of the pending cross, He takes time to answer disciple’s questions re end times.

They’re on the Mt of Olives east of Jerusalem, so they call this the Olivet Discourse

Matthew’s 3 Great Discourses:

Matt 5-7 – The Idealic Nature of the Kingdom

Matt 13 – The Present Nature of the Kingdom

Matt 24-25 – The future entering into the Kingdom

In Matt 24 He answered the disciple’s questions about when His 2nd Coming would be.

Now in Matt 25 He continues to tell us 3 ways that we can know that we’re ready for His coming.

He doesn't want us to be sign-watchers, He wants us to expect His imminent return.

#1 – We can know that we're ready when we've become born again (Chap 25:1-13)

Read Vs 1-5

1. 10 Bride's Maids – ½ w/ oil & ½ w/o oil
2. During a wedding betrothal or Ketubah the bride and her bride's maids would watch for the groom to come & call them away to the wedding.
3. Who are these bride's maids representing?
 - a. The church & all that lodge in its branches
 - b. Read Matt 13:31:32

Read Vs 6-9

1. The 5 w/o oil didn't have what was necessary
2. Oil is always a picture of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Read Zec 4:6
 - b. Water of the Word, Oil of the Spirit

3. Sometimes people miss the main point of Jesus' parables b/c they stumble on the fine details
 - a. Don't miss main points & press into rest.
 - b. Where to buy oil?
 - i. Probably express to get right with the Lord.

Read Vs 10-12

1. Read Matt 7:21-23
2. There are those that are around the church and within the church that are not of the church.
 - a. Read I John 2:19-20 – They went out from us b/c they were not of us
 - b. Don't assume b/c someone is in a church building that they know the Lord to salvation
3. The only way to get the oil of the Spirit is to be born again...born from above.
 - a. Read Eph 1:13-14 – earnest of the Spirit
 - b. Read Gal 3:1-3 – begun in the Spirit

Read Vs 13

1. Be converted...TODAY is the day of salvation

#2 – We can know that we're ready b/c we're rightly using Christ's Spiritual Resources (Chap 25:14-30)

Read Vs 14-15

1. God gives His precious resources to His created.
2. We're all giving different spiritual blessings and to different degrees.
 - a. But we all have gifts, the Word & the Spirit
 - b. It's up to us for how we use them.

Read Vs 16-23

1. Notice the Lord's answer is the same to both.
2. What did they both do that was the same?
 - a. They didn't return the same amt to Him.
 - b. But they both returned the same % to Him.
3. We're accountable, not for how many chances we have in life to serve Christ, but for how effective we use the chances that we're given.
 - a. Turn to Luke 19:16-19
 - b. B. Graham had many chances, maybe u have little, but use them effectively. (Rom 14:11-12)

Read Vs 24-25

1. This parable again has “the greater church” represented, those true believers and those who hang around it.
2. This man’s own words show he has a great misunderstanding of who God is.
 - a. God’s not putting us to work as a burden, but as a delight to be apart of His great plan!
 - b. His yoke is easy and burden is light.
 - c. Do you see God’s service as God commanding you to do things? Or as a joy?
3. This sinner’s response is, as in vs 25, “I was afraid and went and hid”.
 - a. Just like Adam and Eve – Gen 3
 - b. Like Moses at the burning bush – Exo 3
 - c. Not understanding God causes us to run.

Read Vs 26-30

1. “Wicked” b/c he should have known God
2. “Slothful” – This is his real problem

#3 – We can know that we’re ready b/c we’re rightly using Christ’s Physical Resources (Chap 25:31-46)

Read Vs 31-33

1. Notice this one isn’t a parable; this is the conclusion to the Olivet Discourse of His coming.
2. At end of 7-year Tribulation, at Christ’s 2nd Coming, all ethnic groups will be gathered b4 Him
3. This is not the Great White Throne Judgement.
 - a. This will happen at the end of Millennium as recorded in Rev 20
 - b. That judgement is only for unbelievers.
4. But what is the criteria to divide them?

Read Vs 34-40

1. The sheep on the right
 - a. This always the place of honor.
 - b. Benjamin – son of my right hand
 - c. Jesus sits on the right hand of the Father
2. Vs 34 – “prepared since the beginning”
 - a. This has always been the plan.

3. Vs 40 – You helped “my brethren”
 - a. Most specifically this means Israelis
 - i. Read John 20:17
 - b. Can this be extrapolated to mean we should help all mankind, absolutely.
 - i. Read Gal 6:10
 - c. Our faith in Jesus will be expressed thru our care of Israel and all people who are special creations of God.
 - i. Read Jam 2:15-17
 - d. Are we using our money for the benefit of God’s people or just ourselves?

Read Vs 41-46

1. Vs 41 – “prepared for devil & his angels”
 - a. It’s never God desire for people to go to hell.
 - b. Read Eze 33:11
2. Their lack of help for God’s people demonstrate their complete lack of faith/trust in Jesus Christ.

3. “Everlasting fire” (vs 41) & “Everlasting punishment (vs 46) & “Life eternal”
 - a. Our sin is against a perfect, infinite, everlasting God.
 - b. The punishment needs to meet the crime
 - c. We have an entire lifetime to make the choice, but when the day comes, our choice will stand forever
 - d. Think of it this way, if Christ rejecting rebels were not assured of eternal punishment, we would not be assured of eternal joy.
 - e. If someone is struggling with the concept of everlasting punishment, **THERE’S A CURE!**
 - i. Be converted today!
 - ii. Escape to everlasting life now
 - iii. God’s riches are set before you, choose life!
4. So the proof of conversion is in how you treat people who are made in the image of God.

Conclusion

3 ways that you can know that you're ready for Jesus return (which can be at any moment)

1. **Become born again**
 - a. Do you have the oil of the Holy Spirit convicting & guiding you?
 - b. There are those around the church that are NOT headed to heaven. Maybe some you love.
2. **Rightly be using the Spiritual resources God has given you**
 - a. Don't be concerned with the gifts and abilities that you don't have, just be effective using the ones you do have.
 - b. It takes a right understanding of God to turn from vain efforts and pursue Godly efforts
3. **Rightly be using the Physical resources God has given you**
 - a. Do good to all, but especially unto the...
4. *There is a divide coming....are you ready?*