

## "The Olivet Discourse"

### Matthew 24-25

#### Part 21

**Introduction:** I want to start tonight with a reminder of God prophetic calendar and how it is going to unfold in the future:

1. The rapture.
2. The beginning of the Tribulation period which is also known as the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel as well as The Day of The Lord.
3. The birth pains which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 24:4-29. These birth pains will eventually give way to the birth of the Kingdom of our Lord.
4. The end of the Great Tribulation.
5. The glorious return of our Lord.
6. The Battle of Armageddon.
7. The Judgment of the Nations.
8. The thousand year reign of Jesus on this earth.

These are some of the topics which we have considered as we have been working our way through the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew.

Now the section which we are currently in which is Matthew 24:32-51 Jesus is warning those who will be alive at the END of the Great Tribulation to be sure they are ready for His return to the earth.

#### **Notice Matthew 24:32-35**

Here in these verses Jesus tells them to pay very close attention to the signs. The signs will be the birth pains which we have already looked at.

### **Notice Matthew 24:36**

Here in this verse Jesus warns them that no one will know the DAY or the HOUR. Now they will be able to look at the signs and know the general time of the Lord's return but they will not know the exact day or hour. So our Lord's emphasis here is on 2 thoughts:

1. Expectancy
2. Preparedness

Now to show the danger for those who will not be prepared at the end of the Great Tribulation Jesus points back to Noah's day and those who were unprepared when the flood came.

### **Notice Matthew 24:37-39**

Those of Noah's day ignored all the warning signs and the preaching of Noah and when the flood came it swept all of the UNSAVED away. Jesus then tells us at the end of verse 39 it will be the same at the end of the Great Tribulation.

Now He will give us the details of what will happen.

### **Notice Matthew 24:40-41**

Once again I remind you that this is not the rapture as many have been taught to believe. This happens at the end of the Great Tribulation and the rapture happens before the Great Tribulation. Those who are taken here will be taken in judgment just as those of Noah's day who were swept away with the flood. Last week I showed you what Luke recorded and we gather more light in Luke's words.

### **Luke 17:34-37**

*<sup>34</sup> I tell you, in that night there shall be two men [people] in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.*

*<sup>35</sup> Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

*<sup>36</sup> Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

*<sup>37</sup> And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together.*

The disciples asked where they would be taken. Jesus made it very clear that those who will be taken will be taken to the Battle of Armageddon. The word "eagles" here can also be translated "buzzards" and the buzzards will be at the battle of Armageddon to eat the flesh of those who are slaughtered in the battle.

Those who are left will be those who are saved and will enter the Kingdom of our Lord.

Now Jesus is going to take the thought of being prepared a little deeper in the next verses. Before we get into this section I need to remind you that what we are about to study in Matthew 24:42-51 you will find to be most interesting. As we work our way through these next verses we must keep the setting and the context in mind. These words are for those who will be alive at the end of the tribulation. The Words which our Lord speaks here are not for the church because when the events spoken of here unfold we will have already been raptured away. We will be returning back to the earth with our Lord.

Now there is application which can be made for the church but the warnings here are for those who will survive the tribulation.

### **A. Be Alert**

#### **Notice Matthew 24:42**

This verse carries the same thought as verse 36. The signs will be evident but the day or the hour will be unknown. The idea in this verse is to be prepared so as not to be one of those who will be taken away in judgment.

#### **Notice Matthew 24:43**

Here Jesus points to an example of a man and his home. He says that if the master of the home had known the watch in which the thief would come he would have been ready and he would never have allowed the thief to enter into his home.

Let me just say that the Lord's return is often compared to a thief coming in the night only for the reason to show how it will catch many people unprepared.

#### **Notice Matthew 24:44**

Here we see that Jesus is teaching the need for people to be alert. We also see the emphasis is on the hour. Many will know from the signs that His return is close but they will not know the exact hour or the day.

Now I want you to see another place where Jesus used this very same example to teach the need for alertness and in this other passage we get more information.

Now before we look at this passage we need to know there is an application for the church but when as I read the text I believe it is truly meant for those at the end of the Great Tribulation. Let me show you this in **Luke 12:35-40** as we look at each of these verses.

### **Luke 12:35**

*<sup>35</sup> Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;*

In Jesus' day the common attire was a long garment very similar to a long dress. The idea here about "girding the loins" was to pull the garment up so that it did not bind the legs that way you would be able to move quickly. That is the very idea Jesus has in mind. He is telling them to gird their loins so that they were living in constant readiness, always prepared.

Then He tells them to keep their lights or lamps burning. Now the oil used to fuel the lights can be seen in the Bible as a type of the Holy Spirit. But here I believe the idea is that they are not to live in darkness and we know during the Great Tribulation there will be much darkness. Notice the warning Jesus gave concerning those who will be alive at the end of the tribulation and the danger of getting caught up in the spiritual darkness.

### **Luke 21:31-35**

*<sup>31</sup> So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.*

*<sup>32</sup> Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.*

*<sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*

<sup>34</sup> *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged [weighed down] with surfeiting [effects of too much wine], and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.*

<sup>35</sup> *For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

Here in Luke 21 Jesus warns those who will be alive during the Great Tribulation about becoming "intoxicated". I believe the meaning here is about becoming "intoxicated" with sin that will be so widespread during the tribulation. It is a warning against anything that will control them and keep them from being alert and not being prepared for the Lord's return. Remember that when the rapture happens the restraints will be lifted from the demonic forces.

Let's get back to Luke 12 again.

### **Luke 12:36**

<sup>36</sup> *And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.*

Here our Lord speaks of a wedding in which a lord (master) was married. When a man was betrothed to a woman he would prepare a place for both of them to live after the wedding. When the house was prepared he would go unannounced to his bride and bring her to his father's house for the wedding. A wedding could last up to 7 days and at the end of the wedding the groom would come back and call his friends who were ready to come to the marriage supper and celebrate the wedding.

We can see within this a picture of the marriage between Jesus and the church. The wedding will take place in heaven after the rapture at

the Father's house. Then at the end of the Great Tribulation Jesus and His bride (the church) will come back to the earth (this is the second coming of Christ) and those who are ready and prepared, meaning those who are saved at the end of the tribulation will be invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb which will take place on the earth in the Kingdom. These will be those who are righteous and who are left on the earth after the wicked are taken away in judgment.

### **Luke 12:37-38**

*<sup>37</sup> Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.*

*<sup>38</sup> And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.*

The ones who will be found watching are those who will be saved.

Now Jesus gives a chilling illustration of the need for them to be alert.

### **Luke 12:39-40**

*<sup>39</sup> And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.*

*<sup>40</sup> Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.*

This is the same thought Jesus is presenting in Matthew 24:43-44. I made mention of how Jesus' second coming is compared to a thief in the night because His coming will catch many unprepared. There is also another thought to go with that and it is that when a thief breaks in he takes away much of what the homeowner possessed. In the same way

when Jesus comes at the end of the tribulation those who are not saved and prepared will lose everything.

As we now move on to the next verses Jesus will emphasize another point.

## **B. Be Faithful**

### **Notice Matthew 24:45**

Now before we get into this passage there is something which we need to wrap our minds around. There is an application for us today but the arrow of Jesus' Words was directed toward those who will be living at the end of the tribulation.

Let me show you a question which Peter asked the Lord why Jesus was teaching this.

### **Luke 12:39-41**

*<sup>39</sup> And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.*

*<sup>40</sup> Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.*

*<sup>41</sup> Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?*

We must now look at what Mark says to get the answer.

### **Mark 13:37**

<sup>35</sup> *Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:*

<sup>36</sup> *Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.*

<sup>37</sup> **And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.**

**Notice Matthew 24:45 again.**

Now we need to understand that this is for all who will be alive at the end of the tribulation. But what I want you to get here is that as this is addressed to all people we must understand that everyone is seen as a servant of God. Not all are saved but we need to understand that all people are given many blessings from God and there will come a day when every person will be held accountable for how they used what God has given to them.

I am talking both about the saved and the unsaved. The saved will stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ and the unsaved will stand at the Great White Throne. Someone may want to object to that and say, "The unsaved have not received anything of the Lord." I say they most certainly have. People have talents and abilities. They are given opportunities to use what God has given them in a way that would glorify Him. Some are given great wealth of this world. Some are given great minds to develop medicines or to understand the human body. Some are given the ability to build houses. Some are given positions in society where and the list goes on and on. The point is we all have what we have because of the goodness of God. We also must understand that it is all given so that man would glorify God as the Creator. But we know that sin has entered into the world and according to Romans 3:23

we have all come short of the glory of God. Selfishness and greed have kept man from using his God given abilities to bring honor to the Creator instead it is used for selfish desires.

Let me remind you that every politician, every law enforcement officer, every member of Congress and the House, every man that has ever been President of the United States will one day answer to God for how they used the power given to them.

### **Romans 13:1-4**

*Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

<sup>2</sup> *Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.*

<sup>3</sup> *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:*

<sup>4</sup> *For he is the minister of God to thee for good.*

Now let me show you how man's God given abilities are to be used.

### **Matthew 24:45**

<sup>45</sup> *Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?*

We can see here that the servant in this illustration was to take care of those who he was to help his fellow man. Again I remind you that selfishness and greed have completely distorted all of this.

### **Notice Matthew 24:46**

The one who is found doing this when Jesus comes will be the saved person. Obedience is the mark of true salvation.

**Conclusion:**

We will pick this up here next week because there is a treasure of spiritual wealth found within this passage.

Let me leave you with a thought from all of this. Sometimes believers can get caught up in how selfish the unsaved in the world are with what they have. Let me just remind you that they will answer to God one day. We have a responsibility to use what we have been entrusted with for the glory of God. It is not our responsibility to criticize the unsaved. We are to love them and to reach out to them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Until they are saved they will not live to bring glory to God.