

"The Olivet Discourse"

Matthew 24-25

Part 23

Introduction: In our study of the Olivet Discourse tonight we have come to Matthew 24:45-51. Last week we looked at Matthew 24:42-44 and in these verses we looked at why Jesus was so concerned about "alertness" in this section. Let me remind you that Jesus' Words here are prophetic and by that I mean that His Words are for those who will be alive at the end of the Great Tribulation. His audience is the survivors of the Great Tribulation. The topic is His return after the Great Tribulation and His concern is that those who will survive will be ready for His return.

Now we would think that for all who survive the tribulation that they would not need anyone to speak to them about being alert for the second coming of Christ because of all they will see during the Great Tribulation. But there will be many who will not be prepared and they will not be permitted to enter the Kingdom of our Lord but instead will die and be cast into hell. The lack of "alertness" will be so great in that day that Jesus started in Matthew 24:32 speaking on the subject and went the entire way through Matthew 25:46 just to help people to see the need to be ready.

So in our study we are looking at Jesus' Words about being prepared and in each of these passages Jesus has a specific thought in mind. Last week in our study we looked at the "cost" for the people alive at the end of the Great Tribulation if they are not saved when Jesus comes back to the earth.

Notice Matthew 24:43

Here Jesus compared His second coming to a thief who breaks into a home. When a thief enters a home unexpectedly he takes all the valuables which the homeowner has and therefore it is costly for the homeowner.

That is the idea here also. When Jesus comes back at the end of the tribulation His return will be very costly for those who are not saved. It will cost them not only all of their possessions but it will also cost them their souls.

Now we come to Matthew 24:45-51 and as we prepare to step into these verses you need to know that they are pointing back to Matthew 24:40-41.

Notice Matthew 24:40-41

Here is where the unsaved will be taken away in judgment and the saved will be left to enter the Kingdom of our Lord.

This is still the same thought which Jesus is teaching on as we approach verse 45.

"Be Faithful"

Now before we get to the verses let me help you with what we are about to see. Jesus is going to contrast two servants within this passage. One will be a picture of the person who is prepared when He returns at the end of the tribulation and the other will be a picture of the person who is not prepared. Let me extend that thought for a moment: one is a picture of the saved person and the other is a picture of the lost person. Those thoughts will help us to grasp onto some important spiritual truth within these verses.

A. The Question

Notice Matthew 24:45

Here Jesus asks a question to get the minds of the readers pointed in the right direction and focused on an earthly picture which will communicate a spiritual Truth.

With the question our Lord asks here we get a picture of a man who is rather wealthy. He owns a large house and within the house he has many servants as well as family. When he goes away for a period of time he gives authority to several of his servants and it is their responsibility to watch over his house and to provide for his family as well as everyone else within the house that depends upon them.

So these servants who have been given this authority to be sure that his home and his people are well taken care of while he is gone. They know that he will return but they just do not know when. They are simply to be found doing what he gave them to do when he returns.

So the question is, "Who is the wise servant that has been entrusted with authority over his master's house and given responsibility to take care of his house?"

The spiritual picture:

There is something within this that is easy to miss so I want to take the time and help you to see the spiritual picture here.

The house which belongs to the master here is a picture of the nation of Israel. Let me show you a few verses.

Exodus 16:31

³¹ And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

Exodus 40:38

³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Leviticus 17:3

³ What man soever there be of the house of Israel, that killeth an ox, or lamb, or goat, in the camp, or that killeth it out of the camp,

I will stop with these 3 verses but you can see that Israel is referred to in the Bible as a "house". If we were to do a thorough search of the Bible we would actually see that the title "house of Israel" is given to the nation of Israel 146 times in God's Word. So the master's house here can be seen as the nation of Israel.

The "servants" here can be seen as all the people of Israel who will have survived the tribulation. You see God has entrusted to all of Israel much responsibility.

Romans 3:1-2

What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?

² Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

Paul tells us here in Romans that the "oracles of God" were given to Israel. This is a reference to the Law, the Old Testament revelations and the promises of God. But let me get more detailed about this and you will then get the picture. Let me show you two of the prophecies which they had pertaining to the Kingdom.

Isaiah 11:1-10

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

² *And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;*

³ And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

⁴ But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

⁵ And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

⁶ The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

This prophecy was given to the nation of Israel and it foretells the King and His Kingdom.

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷ For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

¹⁸ But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

¹⁹ And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

²⁰ There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

²¹ And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

²² They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them.

²⁴ And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

These are two of the prophecies which they had pertaining to the Kingdom. Lets get back to Matthew 24 again.

Notice Matthew 24:45

In this verse those who were given the authority over the master's house were to "feed" those who were dependent upon them. In the same way those in Israel were who knew the promises were to believe them and were to take that Truth to those who did not know.

That is the spiritual picture here.

B. The Characteristics of the Faithful Servant.

Notice Matthew 24:46

This is a picture of the faithful servant. He has taken the authority and the responsibility entrusted to him and he has used it in a way that would be pleasing to his master.

Spiritual picture:

This is a picture of the saved person at the end of the tribulation period. There are 4 points to be seen from this man's life:

1. He is obedient.
2. He carries out the Master's will.
3. He lives in expectation of his Master's return.
4. He cares about other people.

Application:

This man is a picture of what a true saved person looks like not only at the end of the tribulation but also today. There are 4 points here for anyone who professes to be saved today to use to check their faith:

a. Do you walk in obedience to God's Word?

1 John 2:3-5

³ *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

⁴ *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

⁵ *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

b. Do you desire to live in the will of God?

Psalm 40:8

⁸ *I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.*

Psalm 143:10

¹⁰ *Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.*

c. Do you look forward to the return of Jesus Christ (rapture)?

Titus 2:12-13

¹² *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

¹³ *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;*

d. Do you have a burden for other people?

Matthew 9:36

³⁶ *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

This verse speaks of Jesus and His compassion on the lost. His Spirit lives in each one of us who are saved and therefore we should have the same compassion which our Lord had. Let me show you the compassion which Nehemiah had when he heard of the condition of his brethren and the city of Jerusalem in Nehemiah 1.

Nehemiah 1:1-4

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,

² *That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.*

³ *And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.*

⁴ *And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,*

Nehemiah was broken when he heard of the conditions of his people. The true believer will have a deep concern for those he knows who do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Those are 4 questions which anyone who professes to be saved can use to examine their lives to see if their faith is real.

C. The Reward of the Faithful Servant

Notice Matthew 24:47

The one who is faithful meaning the one who is saved will rule with Jesus Christ in His Kingdom. The more faithful he was here the more there will be entrusted to him in the Kingdom.

Conclusion:

We will come back to this next week but let me leave you with a few verses that will encourage you and me to do all we can.

Ephesians 6:8

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⁸ *Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.*

Hebrews 6:10

¹⁰ *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*