

"The Olivet Discourse"

Matthew 24-25

Part 24

Introduction: Last week in our study of the Olivet Discourse we were in Matthew 24:45-51. These verses are connected to Matthew 24:40-41.

Matthew 24:40-41

⁴⁰ *Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

⁴¹ *Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

These verses are a picture of how many people will be unprepared at the end of the Great Tribulation when Jesus returns to the earth with His church to set up His earthly Kingdom. The person who is taken here is taken in judgment because they are the unsaved and the one who is left will be the person who is saved and they will enter into the Kingdom.

Now Jesus was fully aware of how people will be unprepared at His second coming so therefore He started in Matthew 24:32 and He taught the entire way through Matthew 25:46 on the subject of "preparedness".

Now in the passage which we are in our Lord is giving to us the details of two different lives. In Matthew 24:45 He asks a question which sets the stage for the illustration.

Notice Matthew 24:45

This verse allows us to get a picture within our minds. We see there was a wealthy man who went away on a long journey and when he departed he entrusted his house and his people to his servants. Now the question is, "How would a wise servant conduct his life in this situation?" Last week I gave you 4 characteristics of the wise servant.

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.

Now last week I told you that this entire section is Jewish in nature and therefore this passage is directed to the Jewish people who will be alive at the end of the tribulation.

Now Jesus will address the gentiles who will survive the tribulation but that address will not be until we get to Matthew 25:31.

Notice Matthew 25:31-33

This is the separation of the sheep and the goats. Let me show you another passage which will help us to understand this.

John 10:14-16

¹⁴ *I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

¹⁵ *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

¹⁶ **And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**

The other sheep which were not of "this" fold is a reference to the Gentiles.

In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus will address the Gentile who survive the Great Tribulation but in Matthew 24:45-51 He is speaking to the Jewish people who will survive the tribulation.

I say all of this to make a point with the 4 characteristics of the wise servant: while the 4 points describe the wise Jewish servant they can also be applied to the TRUE church today. They can be seen as the characteristics of the TRUE believer.

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.

"Be Faithful"

Part 2

A. The Reward of the Faithful Servant

Notice Matthew 24:47

Last week I also told you that verse 47 speaks of the reward of the faithful servant and his reward will be that he will be entrusted with more authority when the "Master" returns. When Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation those Jewish people who are

saved and have been faithful in through the tribulation will then enter the Kingdom and it will be in the Kingdom that they will receive authority to rule and reign with Christ and the amount of authority given to them will be based upon their faithfulness as they awaited His return.

We are told in this verse this servant will be "blessed". The word means "happy" or "deep inward satisfaction". That describes what it will be like serving the Lord in the Kingdom.

Revelation 20:1-4

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

² *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

³ *And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

⁴ *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

B. The Characteristics of the Evil Servant

Notice Matthew 24:48

Here we see the attitude of the unprepared servant. He has convinced himself that he has lots of time before his "Master" returns. Now do not miss the fact that this man knows his "Master" is going to return. Many of those who will be unprepared at the end of the tribulation will be aware that Jesus Christ is coming but it will be their love for the world and the things of this world that will can them to procrastinate.

Let me show you some verses out of Revelation which will connect with this.

Revelation 6:15-17

¹⁵ *And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;*

¹⁶ *And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:*

¹⁷ *For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*

These verses are amazing because we can clearly see that many of the people of the tribulation will know exactly what is happening but they refuse to repent and get saved.

Now let us go back to Matthew 24:8 again.

Notice Matthew 24:48

There is something here that I believe we need to look closer at. These people who go through the tribulation will have God's Word and we know that the passage we are in is directed to the Jewish survivors of the tribulation. They know the tribulation will last for 7 years because the Bible is clear about that. They also will know that the Anti-christ will enter a covenant with Israel for 1 week (7 years). With the Bible they will also know that the Rapture will be the beginning of all of this. Then my question is, "Why don't they do the math after the Rapture?" You would think that someone would be able to do the math from the time of the Rapture and figure 7 years later (not knowing the day or the hour) Jesus Christ is going to come back. Why will they not do this?

Let me give you something to think about. Maybe the Rapture is will not be a world changing event. Maybe it will only be something which few people will notice. Therefore, much of the world will not even know when it happens. Now someone may oppose that thought because they read the "Left Behind" series, or because they noticed recently that there is a major motion picture coming out and the movie shows how devastated the world will be when the Rapture happens. But let me refresh your memory about what Jesus said.

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

¹⁴ *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

Jesus tells us that there are FEW who are truly saved and if we compare that to Noah's day there were only 8 souls out of possibly 9 billion people who were saved.

If Noah's day is a picture and I believe it is then the Rapture will be an event that will go unnoticed by much of the world. If there is not a believer in someone's family then they may never know it happens. That would mean that many of the people who profess to be saved are not truly saved. If everyone who says they are saved was truly saved and the Rapture happened it would devastate the world. But according to the Words of our Lord there are few.

Let's get back to Matthew 24 again.

Notice Matthew 24:48

Those who are unsaved at the end of the tribulation will not be concerned about the return of Jesus. They know what the Bible says but their reasoning is that they have lots of time to prepare.

Notice Matthew 24:29

This man's actions are the manifestation of his heart. He is not saved and it shows in the way in which he conducts his life.

Let me stop here and point out 2 characteristics of the unsaved person.

1. **No compassion for people.**

Notice Matthew 24:49a

This servant does not minister to the people under his master's roof. But instead he abuses his authority and he oppresses those whom he has the opportunity to reach out to.

Application:

Let me just say that when a person is truly saved they cannot help but to be concerned for others who have needs.

James 2:14-17

¹⁴ *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?*

¹⁵ *If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,*

¹⁶ *And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?*

¹⁷ *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

James tells us that when we see someone in need and we have the means to help them out we will do more than pray if our faith is real. Our faith will show in our works.

The man in Matthew 24:49 did not care about others he was only concerned about himself and that is a sign of the unsaved person. The saved person knows what it means to give to the needy.

Proverbs 19:17

¹⁷ *He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.*

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

² *Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.*

³ *If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.*

⁴ *He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.*

⁵ *As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.*

⁶ *In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.*

2. Lives for the appetites of the flesh.

Notice Matthew 24:49b

Here we see that this man eats and drinks with the drunken but the point I want you to see that he is all about self satisfaction.

Application:

This again is the mark of an unsaved person. They live for self satisfaction. They may give to the needy once in a while but it is not sacrificial giving. They will sometimes give to the needy to make themselves feel good but there is no concern for the needy. Their focus is upon themselves and grabbing all they can while they are here on this earth.

C. The Consequences

Notice Matthew 24:50

This man will not be prepared when his Lord returns.

Notice Matthew 24:51

Here we see the consequences for the unsaved person at the end of the tribulation.

1. Fear

"And shall cut him asunder" - This means to literally cut him in half. Think about how you would feel if you found out the consequences for your actions were that you were going to be cut in half while you were alive. The fear of the consequences would consume you.

That is the very idea for the one who will be found unsaved at the end of the tribulation. When they see the sky break open they will be consumed with fear.

Luke 21:25-27

²⁵ *And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;*

²⁶ **Men's hearts failing them for fear**, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

²⁷ *And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

2. Shame

"and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites" - Here is a man that had great potential but he allowed it all to get away.

3. Pain

"there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" - This refers to the pain they will feel in when they are cast into hell.

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Conclusion:

All 3 of these will also be true of those who sit in church week after week and reject salvation. When they stand before the Lord at the *Great White Throne* they will experience the greatest fear they have ever known. They will be shamed as they stand with murderers and rapists and are found guilty right with them. They will experience the greatest pain ever when they are cast into the *Lake of Fire* where they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.