

"The Olivet Discourse"

Matthew 24-25

Part 30

Introduction: In our study of the Olivet Discourse we have been looking at the Parable of the Talents now for several weeks. I need to remind you that these verses which we are looking at in Matthew 25 are addressed to the people who will survive the Great Tribulation. The Parable of the Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 and the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30 both focus upon "preparedness". Both of these parables are taught by our Lord because of what He had revealed in 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 not speaking about the rapture because that event will happen before the tribulation begins. The event which Jesus is speaking of here will happen after the Great Tribulation. These verses are speaking of the return of Jesus at the end of the tribulation and how many people will be taken away in judgment and those who are left will be the saved and they will enter into the Kingdom of our Lord.

Matthew 13:47-50

⁴⁷ *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:*

⁴⁸ *Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.*

⁴⁹ **So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just.**

⁵⁰ *And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

Back to Matthew now; our Lord is using the Parable of the Virgins and the Parable of the Talents to cause the people who survive the tribulation to look closely at their hearts to be sure, beyond any doubt, that they are ready when He returns to set up His Kingdom.

Now while this is directed to the survivors of the tribulation there is also many applications for you and I in these parables and that is what we have been looking at in our recent studies. Last week we looked at the day of reckoning in this parable and we really focused upon 2 verses and they were 25:20, 22.

Notice Matthew 25:19, 20, 22

In verses 20 and 22 the word "behold" is so important. These servants were willing to rush into the presence of their lord because they had taken that which was entrusted to them, invested it, and were excited about how the investments had doubled.

Application: I am reminded about the day of reckoning that is coming for all who are in Christ. It will happen following the rapture and we will stand before the Lord to give an account of how we have used what

He entrusted to us. If it happened today would you be eager to rush into His presence? Are you excited to show Him how you invested the spiritual Truth entrusted to you? Are you living for eternity or are you living like this world is your home?

1 John 2:28

²⁸ *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and **not be ashamed** before him at his coming.*

Tonight as we continue to look at this parable I want us to look at their reward and what they were rewarded for when they came to the day of reckoning.

I. The Reward

Notice Matthew 25:21, 23

There are several points I want you to see here:

1. They were commended for their service.

To both he said, ***"Well done, thou good and faithful servant"***.

I want you to know that these 2 men were committed to their lord's work. They had made sacrifices and instead of living for themselves they were living to please their lord and it was all recognized on this day. This is seen in the words, "WELL DONE".

We need to know that if we desire to hear the words "WELL DONE" we are going to need to make some sacrifices. There is always the temptation to live to please the flesh. The flesh which we are wrapped in desires SELF satisfaction and it is a constant battle to say, "NO" to the desires of the flesh and, "YES" to serving and living for God. But as

I have told you many times before our Lord is very aware of every sacrifice we make for Him.

Ephesians 6:5-8

⁵ *Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;*

⁶ *Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;*

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.

2. They were rewarded for their FAITHFULNESS.

Notice Matthew 25:21, 23

We need to notice closely the words spoken by their lord, "Well done, thou good and **FAITHFUL** servant: thou has been **FAITHFUL** over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things"...

These men were not rewarded and commended for their accomplishments but they were rewarded for their **faithfulness** with that which had been entrusted to them.

Application: We as believers in Christ are called to be faithful in our service and in our walk with the Lord. This means we are to invest the

Truth which He has entrusted to us, walk in obedience to the His Word and we are to live by faith.

Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

¹⁷ *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

We are saved by faith and then we are to LIVE by faith. That means we are to not compromise the Truth of God's Word in any situation which we face. We are to trust Him no matter what it is that we face. We also need to be reminded that as we walk the face of this sin filled earth that our faith is going to be tested from time to time. Let me show you what Jesus said to the church of Smyrna about faithfulness.

Revelation 2:8-10

⁸ *And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*

⁹ *I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.*

¹⁰ *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

This letter to the church of Smyrna helps us to see that we are to be faithful to our Lord even to death. Therefore there is never a situation that would justify compromise. Let me show you what Peter tells us about faithfulness in the midst of difficult situations.

1 Peter 1:7

⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Here Peter writes to believers who are being burned alive for their faith and Peter is looking ahead to the day of reckoning. There will be praise, honor and glory in that day. He encourages them to stand firm and In his letter Peter calls his readers to trust God in the midst of the persecution and to be faithful even unto death.

1 Peter 4:19

¹⁹ Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Back to the thought of Matthew 25; we are called to be faithful no matter what we face and it will be our faithfulness that will be rewarded. We are to take what God entrusts to us and invest it no matter what others think, no matter how they view us, and no matter what they do to us. We are to live to please God and not men.

3. They were promoted from servants to rulers.

Notice Matthew 25:21, 23

Because of their faithfulness with the talents they were given a promotion. They were servants when they were entrusted with the talents but after the day of reckoning they were promoted to rulers.

Application: I want you to absorb what I am going to tell you. Our faithfulness here with how we use what God has entrusted to us will determine the "authority" given to us when we serve with Him in the Kingdom. Our faithfulness here will translate into "authority" when enter the Kingdom.

Now some people would reason that they will just be thankful to be in the Kingdom. They will be content to sweep the streets and a position of authority is not a concern of theirs. Now if that is how you think let me point out something; that is nothing but selfish thinking. You are focused upon yourself and it is not about you. It is about serving our Lord Who died so that we can have eternal life. It is about living to bring honor and glory to Him. It is about living to please Him with all that we do. Everyone of us should strive to serve while we are here in a way that will please Him when we stand before Him.

2 Timothy 2:3-4

³ *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

⁴ *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

It is not just about me getting into heaven but it is about me living a life of faithfulness so that my life honors my Lord.

4. They were permitted to enter into a state of joy.

Notice Matthew 25:21, 23

I want you to notice that it was the **"joy of their lord"** which they were permitted to enter. I want you to see what Vines Dictionary says about this "joy":

"Some regard it as signifying, concretely, the circumstances attending cooperation in the authority of the Lord."

Now what this means is this "joy" spoke of here is a "joy" that comes as a result of being faithful in obedience down here on this earth. We experience a taste of this "joy" in this life when we are committed to serving the Lord and we are steadfast in our faith. Now while we are on this earth this "joy" is experienced by those who are dedicated to serving and a life of faithfulness. I am safe to say that many believers do not experience much of this "joy" here in this life because of their lack of commitment and faithfulness. Now I want to give you something to consider. In heaven there are different degrees of rewards and I believe there are also different degrees of "joy". I believe that the more faithful we are here in this life the deeper the "joy" will be there. That does NOT mean that some believers will be walking around in the Kingdom with long sad faces. There will be NO sadness, nor will there be any sorrow. But I do believe that those who are faithful with what God has entrusted to them here will know a deeper "joy" there than the believer who had wasted the opportunities placed before him or her. That does not mean that the believer who wasted their opportunities will be a second class resident of the Kingdom. But each of us will experience the "joy" of the Lord and I believe it will be to different degrees.

Let me give you something else to consider. Your faithfulness here will determine the way you are arrayed there.

Revelation 19:7-8

⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

The end of verse 8 literally means "the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints". The "righteousnesses" of the saints is the faithful service and works of the saints following salvation. The bottom line is that our service and faithfulness here is connected with how we will be arrayed in the glorified body.

Let's get back to Matthew.

Conclusion:

As I have told you before, you and I will never be sorry for the sacrifices which we make in this life. We will never be sorry that we said, "NO" to earthly opportunities and "YES" to spiritual opportunities. But for those who are controlled flesh who suppress the Truth entrusted to them I can say that in the day of reckoning you will be sorry. You will be saved but you will have little to show for your life down here.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

¹⁴ *If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

¹⁵ *If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

Romans 8:16-18

¹⁶ *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

¹⁷ *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

¹⁸ *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*