

## "The Olivet Discourse"

### Matthew 24-25

#### Part 31

**Introduction:** In our study of the Olivet Discourse we have been looking at the Parable of the Talents found in Matthew 25:14-30. The past 2 weeks we have looked at the Day of Reckoning when the servants who were given the talents were called before their lord to give an account of how they had invested their talents.

In the past 2 studies we looked at the man who was given 5 talents and the man who was given 2 talents. They both invested their talents and each one doubled what had been entrusted to them. On the Day of Reckoning each man was called in and they were both eager to rush into the presence of their lord because they desired to share with him how they had entrusted what he had given to them.

#### **Notice Matthew 25:20, 22**

Now let me stop here for a moment and refresh your memory on something.

This entire parable was given by our Lord for the purpose of showing the need to be prepared when He returns to set up His Kingdom at the end of the Tribulation. This parable is directed toward those who will be alive at the end of the Great Tribulation. There is an application here for you and I as the Church but it is not directed to the Church because the Church will be raptured away before the beginning of the tribulation. There is something else I need to refresh your mind about. Let me show you several verses from Daniel.

Daniel 9:24-26

<sup>24</sup> Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

<sup>25</sup> Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: [69 weeks] the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

<sup>26</sup> And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

Daniel was told that 70 weeks of years were determined upon HIS people (the Jews). Daniel was also told that from the commandment to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem (which was given to Nehemiah) until the Messiah would come and be "cut off" (this is a reference to the death of Christ) would be 69 weeks. That means that follow the death of Christ there would be one more "week of years" (7 years) which would come upon Daniel's people.

When Jesus' disciples asked the questions in Matthew 24:3 they were standing in the 69<sup>th</sup> week. When Jesus answered with the teaching of the Olivet Discourse He stepped right over the Church Age and He stepped into the 70<sup>th</sup> week which is what the Olivet Discourse is focused on. You see they were in the 69<sup>th</sup> week but they did not know

of the Church Age which we live in today. In the first 69 weeks God was dealing with the nation of Israel. They were set aside and now God is gathering a bride for His Son. Once the bride of Christ is complete we will be raptured away. God will then deal with the nation of Israel again for the 70<sup>th</sup> week, which is the 7 years of tribulation.

I needed to remind you of that because we must not forget the context.

Now tonight in our study we are going to look at the Parable of the Talents one more time and as we do we are going to look at the man who received one talent.

### **"The Emptiness of Living for the World"**

Let me remind you that the two men who invested the talents entrusted to them represent those who are truly saved. If we combine this parable with the Parable of the Ten Virgins we can see 2 characteristics of those who truly know the Lord.

1. Watching - Parable of the Ten Virgins.
2. Serving - Parable of the Talents.

Now let us notice the man who is not saved but he is religious.

### **Notice Matthew 25:18-19, 24**

When I see that this man was the last one to come on the Day of Reckoning I can see within him a great hesitancy to stand before his lord. When he was first entrusted with the talents this day would have seemed so far away but now it was here. He had lived his life to please himself and now he had to stand before his lord with nothing to show for all the time that he had wasted.

**Application:**

Let me just make an application for all of us. The Day of Reckoning for us may seem very far away but it is coming and the time to serve our Lord is so limited. Let me show you what Moses wrote as he lead Israel through the wilderness for 40 years. As they journey Moses watched 603,550 men die. This was the judgment of God because they refused to enter the land of Canaan 2 years after they came out of Egypt.

Here is what God told Moses in Numbers 14;

**Numbers 14:28-29**

*<sup>28</sup> Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:*

*<sup>29</sup> Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward which have murmured against me.*

Then in the following years Moses wrote Psalm 90 and in this Psalm he wrote something which we need to see.

**Psalm 90:10-12**

*<sup>10</sup> The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

*<sup>11</sup> Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.*

*<sup>12</sup> So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

Let's get back to Matthew 25 again.

**Matthew 25:24a**

*<sup>24</sup> Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man,*

I want to give you the definition of the word "hard" so that you can see this man's accusation against his lord. The word means "austere" which means "stringent to the taste," like new wine not matured by age, unripe fruit, etc. To make it clear it would mean "sour" or "harsh". It could also mean "without gentleness and encouragement".

So this man was saying his lord was sour, unforgiving, and harsh. But that is not all.

**Matthew 25:24b**

*reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:*

Here he is saying that his lord was always taking that which did not belong to him.

Now let me say this was all a lie. He knew the character of his lord. He was well known enough to be entrusted with a talent. He knew how his lord had shown grace and love to others. But he was so focused upon himself that he did not want to turn from his own desires and invest what was given to him. But when he was confronted he wanted to blame his lord.

**Application:**

Within this verse we can see the religious person exposed.

**Illustration:**

Years ago there was a Pastor doing a funeral for a child and someone who was unsaved stood up during the funeral and demanded to know where God was when the child died. The Pastor responded by saying, "I cannot tell you where He was when this child died but I can tell you where He was 2000 years ago. He was hanging on the cross dying for your sins and mine." The man did not want to hear the Truth. He was blaming God for the death of the child.

I was asked by a man years ago how a "God of Love" could allow little children to become sick and die? He told me he wanted nothing to do with a God that would allow that. He was knew that God was a God of Love but he was bitter because of the effects of sin in the world and he placed the blame on God.

All of this blame can be traced back to Genesis 3.

**Genesis 3:9-12**

*<sup>9</sup> And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?*

*<sup>10</sup> And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.*

*<sup>11</sup> And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?*

*<sup>12</sup> And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.*

**Notice Matthew 25:25**

Here we see that he had an excuse for why he did not invest his talent. He said he was afraid. But let me help you to see through this excuse for a moment. The reason he did not invest the talent was because there was nothing in it for him. If he invested it with the investors then his lord's name would be attached to it and he would get nothing. If he buried the talent and his lord did not return then it would be his to keep. We must understand this man had no love for his lord. He loved himself and he was all about self satisfaction.

Notice the Words of Jesus.

### **John 14:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

<sup>22</sup> *Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?*

<sup>23</sup> *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.*

Let me just say that our commitment to the Lord is a really good indicator of the depth of our love for Him.

### **Notice Matthew 25:26**

His lord calls him a wicked and slothful servant here. You may expect his lord to say, "I am so sorry you had been misled." He was part of the household of his lord. He knew the character of his lord and therefore he was held accountable for what he knew.

The more we know the more accountable we are.

**Notice Matthew 25:26-27**

Let me word this so that you can better understand the meaning here. His lord says to him here, "So, you knew that I was a man who reaped where I did not sow and gathered where I did not straw, did you? Then if that was really the truth then you should have invested the talent which I entrusted to you so that I would have had interest!" His lord does not come right out and say it but he is calling this man a liar. He did not invest because he saw nothing in it for himself. His lord is saying, "You were so wrapped up in your own desires and personal pleasures that you were too lazy put to use what I had given to you!"

**Notice Matthew 25:28**

The talent was taken from him and it was given to the man who had ten.

**Notice Matthew 25:29**

For those who invest now there will be much more in the Kingdom. But to those who live for self they will have it all taken away.

**Notice Matthew 25:30**

This is a picture of the religious person being cast into hell.

**Conclusion:**

I want to give you something to consider for a moment. We can clearly see this man was held accountable for the one talent which he was given. How much more are we accountable who have been entrusted with many "talents" which by the way are a picture of the spiritual Truth which God gives to us? Don't for a moment think that the Day of

Reckoning will be a "walk in the park". Listen, the "talents" which God drops in our basket are far more valuable than anything which you have on this earth. They are "talents" which belong to God and we are stewards of those "talents".

We cannot think for a moment that we can brush off the Truth which God reveals to us. When you get it you better do something with it! If God speaks to you in a message you had better do something with what He gave you. If He lays on your heart that you need to surrender over to Him you better not bury that "talent".

Be very careful you do not allow your love to grow cold. It can happen and you will slowly but steadily drift away and there are consequences.

### **Revelation 2:1-5**

*Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;*

*<sup>2</sup> I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:*

*<sup>3</sup> And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.*

*<sup>4</sup> Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because **thou hast left thy first love.***

*<sup>5</sup> Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and **will remove thy candlestick out of his place,** except thou repent.*

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*The Olivet Discourse*

You can do many things correct but if your love grows cold God calls you to repent and kindle that love by doing the "first works". That means get back to serving Him and not your own desires. If God removes your candlestick it means you will no longer be effective. God will place you on the shelf. How sad that would be.