

Matthew 24.36-25.46 - Sermon Notes - December 12, 2021

WATCH AND BE READY

- I love this time of year as we celebrate the birth of Jesus
- as we celebrate let's remember what Isaiah said - [Isaiah 9:6](#) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- at the first Christmas - most people were so preoccupied with life, or didn't know or care, that it was the time foretold by the prophets
- there is an eerie similarity to the days we are living in
- you see, as those who were living in the first century were oblivious to the coming of the King, so are we today
- the King is coming and most people are so preoccupied with life, or don't know or care, that it is the time foretold by the prophets

1. THE LORD IS COMING

(24:36) WE DON'T KNOW WHEN

- we live in the constant expectancy that Jesus could come at any moment for His church, but we don't set dates because no one knows the day or the hour
 - even though we may not know the time, we should be aware of the signs of the times
 - Jesus warned His hearers about this in [Matthew 16.1-3](#) - Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, '[It will be] fair weather, for the sky is red'; "and in the morning, '[It will be] foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot [discern] the signs of the times.
- this has been the hope of the Church since the day Jesus was taken into heaven

(24:37-39) LIKE THE DAYS OF NOAH

- Jesus compared the time of His return to the days of Noah
 - living life with no thought about what is coming

- some of the things mentioned in Genesis 6
 - a population explosion
 - abnormal sexual practices
 - heavy demonic activity
 - every imagination of man's heart was evil
 - the earth was filled with violence
- how many people in the days of Noah gave any thought to what was about to happen?
 - so it is today with most people

(24:40-44) WATCH AND BE READY

- there are two views of who it is that will be taken - some believe that those taken will be for judgment, like those who were taken away by the flood. Others believe that this speaks of the Rapture
- warned twice in this section to watch and be ready

2. THE PARABLE OF THE SERVANTS

(24:45-47) THE WISE SERVANT

- the wise servant is the one watching, waiting, and working
 - just because we believe that the Lord is coming soon is no reason to be lazy
 - Jesus said "occupy" until I come
 - we should be busy about our Father's business

(24:48-51) THE FOOLISH SERVANT

- unfortunately there are many who mock the fact that Jesus could come at any time
 - one of the many reasons why I hold to the pretribulation rapture of the church
 - too many people looking for the antichrist and the great tribulation instead of looking for the coming of the Lord
- most people are consumed with what is going on in their life rather than looking for Jesus
 - Jesus reminded us about that in the parable of the sowers in [Matthew 13:22](#) "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.
 - hmm, sounds to me a lot like the days of Noah

3. THE PARABLE OF THE VIRGINS

(25:1) MEETING THE BRIDEGROOM

- another parable that stress the importance of being ready
- in this story, ten virgins are preparing for the coming of the bridegroom

(25:2-13) SOME READY, SOME NOT

- the bridegroom delayed His coming, and the virgins slumbered
- it is interesting that the wise and foolish were together when the bridegroom returned
- there exists in the church today both spiritual and carnal people
- the parable ends with the warning we have been hearing throughout this teaching that Jesus gave about His coming and the end of the world
 - Do you think that by repeating the warning 3 times that there is a message for us?

4. THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

(25:14-15) THE MASTER ENTRUSTS HIS SERVANTS WITH RESPONSIBILITY

- the talents here represent money, not ability
 - a talent was the equivalent of a year's wages
- the servants were given differing amounts according to their ability

(25:16-18) HOW THE SERVANTS MANAGED THE MASTER'S MONEY

- the key here is faithfulness
- God is looking for F.A.T. people = Faithful, Available, and Teachable

(25:19-23) REWARDS FOR DOING THE RIGHT THING

- The way we handle the responsibilities God gives us here determines what we will be given to do in heaven.

(25:24-25) THE DANGER OF DOING NOTHING

(25:26-30) JUDGMENT PRONOUNCED

5. JUDGEMENT ON THE NATIONS

(25:31-33) SHEEP AND GOATS DIVIDED

- The first thing Christ will do when He returns to the earth in glory will be to judge those who lived through the Tribulation and refused to take the mark of the Beast.

(25:34-40) REWARD FOR THE SHEEP

(25:41-46) JUDGMENT FOR THE GOATS