

Matthew 25 - Sermon Notes - December 19, 2021

A TIME OF JUDGMENT

- we have been looking at something that we need to be reminded of regularly - Jesus is coming again
- the main take away is that we do not know when that will be, so we are always to be in a state of readiness
- as Jesus answered the questions of the disciples in [Matthew 24:3](#) - Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what [will be] the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" - His repeated warning was "**Watch and be ready**"
- since Jesus was taken up into heaven, the hope of the Church has been the coming of the King
- every generation should be living like the Lord could come at any moment
- there are many today who mock the idea of the imminence of Christ's return, but that shouldn't surprise us because we were even warned about that
 - [2 Peter 3:1-42 Peter 3:1-4](#) - Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in [both of] which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as [they were] from the beginning of creation."
- as Jesus talks about His return, He uses stories and illustrations to encourage the disciples to always be looking for His return
 - He begins by reminding them of looking at a fig tree
 - then He compares the attitude of two servants - a faithful servant and an evil servant
 - then follows the story of the virgins waiting for the coming of the bridegroom
- then the next story takes a new direction

- This is another in a series of parables that have to do with the time of the return of the Master. Up till now the emphasis has been the importance of watching and being ready, for His coming for the most part will be unexpected. The thrust of this parable takes a new direction. This is a warning of the importance of using that which the Master has intrusted to you for His glory. (Chuck Smith)
- the last thing that Jesus mentions in this sermon is the judgment of the nations at the time of His return
 - with that in mind, I would like to share some thoughts with you about personal responsibility, and the judgments that are coming

1. PERSONAL

(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

- note: that after a long time, the Lord returns
- Just when He comes is not the thing to focus on
- here are the things that we should be remembering and building our life on
 - the fact that He is coming.
 - the fact that I be watching and ready for Him when He returns.
 - The fact that I be doing something with that which He has entrusted into my care.
- 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

- the day of His coming will be a day of reckoning for the Church
 - [Matthew 16:27](#) - "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

- [Romans 2:5-10](#) - But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- [Romans 14:10-12](#) - But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: "[As] I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.
- [2 Corinthians 5:10](#) - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things [done] in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2. NATIONAL

(25:31-33) SHEEP AND GOATS DIVIDED

- what happens to the people who survive the great tribulation
 - remember that at least half of the world's population will die during the tribulation, so there will be many who survive
- 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

3. ETERNAL

- [Revelation 20:11-15](#) - Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is [the Book] of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades

were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

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