

Quotes used in the Sermon

H.G. WELLS

I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history.

UNKNOWN

Buddha never claimed to be God. Moses never claimed to be Jehovah. Mohammed never claimed to be Allah. Yet Jesus Christ claimed to be the true and living God. Buddha simply said, "I am a teacher in search of the truth." Jesus said, "I am the Truth." Confucius said, "I never claimed to be holy." Jesus said, "Who convicts me of sin?" Mohammed said, "Unless God throws his cloak of mercy over me, I have no hope." Jesus said, "Unless you believe in me, you will die in your sins."

FROM THE LAY PREACHER WHOSE SERMON LED CHARLES SPURGEON TO TRUST CHRIST AS SAVIOR

Isaiah 45:22 – *Look to me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth* (NKJV).

"My dear friends, this is a simple text indeed. It says to be saved we only need to look. It ain't lifting your foot or your finger; it's just look. You needn't have gone to college to look. Even a child can look. You needn't be worth a thousand pounds a year to look. Anyone can look. Ah! But the text says, 'Look unto me...' Aye now! Many of you are looking to your selves. It's no use looking there. The text says, 'Look unto me...'"

Then Spurgeon says, *"Then the good man lifted his arms to the heavens and began to cry. 'The Lord says, 'Look unto me. I am sweating great drops of blood. Look unto me. I am dead and buried. Look unto me. I rise again. Look unto me. I ascend to heaven. Look unto me. I am sitting at the Father's right hand. O, look unto me.'" After the good man had gone on for about 10 minutes like this as long as he could he noticed me sitting under the gallery with so few present recognized me to be a stranger. Fixing his eyes on me he said, 'Young man, you look miserable, and you always will be miserable, miserable in life and miserable in death, until you obey my text. Young man, look. Look to Jesus Christ. You have nothing to do but look and live.'*

Spurgeon says, *"The blow struck home, and I saw it at once. I had been waiting to do 50 things to find God, but when I heard that word, 'Look,' the cloud finally was gone. Like when the brazen serpent was lifted up, the people only looked and were healed. So it was with me. I looked and looked and looked until I almost could have looked my eyes away."*

THE KING & HIS KINGDOM



THE STORY OF JESUS

Be Ready

Matthew 24:36-25:46

4/7/2019

AS IT WAS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

Jesus' return will catch **UNAWARES** all who do not take heed whatever warnings are given, and who remain spiritually **UNPREPARED**.

LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

This first parable points to the **UNEXPECTEDNESS** of his return, and the need for **PREPAREDNESS** on the part of his disciples.

WHEN THE CAT'S AWAY

- The test of responsibility occurs when the master is away. Will he be **FAITHFUL** or **UNFAITHFUL**?
- The warning for people who are not yet disciples of Jesus is that they should not **DELAY REPENTING** too long.

THE WEDDING PARTY

The verdict of *wise* or *foolish* hinges on whether the bridesmaids are **READY** to go with the groom to the wedding feast when he arrives.

DON'T BURY YOUR TALENT

For those who have a **RIGHT** relationship with God, what flows out of that is **WISE** and **CONSCIENTIOUS** use of God-given abilities, gifts and resources.

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS

- These people who are called sheep **RECEIVE** this inheritance as a **GIFT** of their relationship with the Father and the Son.
- Those who have **not** followed Jesus will endure **SEPARATION** from him in eternity. Those who have become Jesus **disciples** through faith and trust will enjoy, with him, **LIFE** that is eternal.

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GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

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GETTING STARTED

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, **was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, inspired or confused you?**

DIGGING DEEPER

2. [Read Matthew 24:36-51](#)

What are two or three of the key ideas from these verses?

How should it affect your life that you don't know when Christ will return, but that he *will* return, and that we should live "ready"?

3. [Read Matthew 25:14-30](#)

This parable talks about more than simply being "ready" for Christ's return, but to be doing important, productive service waiting for the master's return. **Why do you think the "unfaithful servant" didn't invest what the master gave to him?**

How does this parable give you direction, and what are the sorts of "productive service" do you think Jesus wants you to be engaged in?

GETTING PERSONAL

4. [Read Matthew 25:31-46](#)

What was the difference between the sheep and the goats, and how does that point us to the issue of salvation that is at stake here?

BRINGING IT HOME

5. **If you knew for sure Jesus was coming back next week, what changes would you make to your life? Why?**

PRAY TOGETHER