

Matthew 25 “The Coming of the Messiah Part 4”

Please Stand and open your Bibles to Matthew 13:10-17

We are now on our last of our four-part series “The Coming of the Messiah”. The section we are now looking at is Jesus’ use of some parables to apply what he just taught them. We just read the explanation of why He is using parables, and we must apply that to these. There are too many people that take these parables and make doctrine out of them. Now, there is doctrine described in these, but it is not where we derive it at. One example of this is the virgins in the first one. People will debate whether they are Christians or Israel, when they are neither. They are characters that provide a contrast. The bible is full of these and don’t need much explanation, the wise and foolish, the bad and the good, the faithful and the wicked. People like to put too much into parables and they completely miss the simple meaning of the teaching. Parables in this context are to apply what they just learned in a very simple way. So, with that let’s remind ourselves of that...

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?”

The whole purpose of the Olivet Discourse is to answer these questions in the context of their conceived Eschatology. If you don’t understand that you will make this, say whatever you want. They thought that Jesus was going to set up the promised

kingdom to Israel right now. God is specific in His word. These promises must come to pass. When will it be? And we covered this in our last three lessons. We showed that Jesus answered the first question by telling them what the world would look like before that would happen and in the near term what was going to happen to them. Then he told us to be those that understand the book of Daniel and the main event of the last seven-year period for the Nation of Israel and Jerusalem...the Abomination of Desolation. But, if we are students of Daniel, we understand that this whole seven-year period is the "Day of the Lord". We learned what will be the sign that Day is coming by the budding of the Fig Tree...the rebirth of the Nation of Israel and the Jews that are back in the land are those that will be there when all these things take place. Now that He has answered those questions what are they to do? Wait and Watch.

Matthew 24:44

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

I don't believe He is talking about the Jews in the Tribulation here as He has told us to be Bereans in the book of Daniel, and if you are, you will know the exact moment that He will return as Daniel tells us...

Daniel 12:11

And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

I don't think you can get any clearer than that. I have heard a lot of humming and hawing about this. But you can't when Matthew says...

Matthew 24:15

Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand)

If we are doing as we are told, then we can come up with no other conclusion that Jesus is telling us to be ready for His imminent return. He did not want these early disciples to think they missed out or to slack off. There is work to do while we are waiting and that is the purpose of the parables. When we understand this, they will make perfect sense and we don't have to over spiritualize them like so many do.

We saw the first one last week of the faithful and wicked servant. The contrast of the one who was waiting and working to the lazy and slothful. He will elaborate further as we continue...

The Parable of the Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

As we have mentioned earlier these virgins are not the Church and they are not Israel as they go through the tribulation. This is a simple parable of contrast of those that are waiting and those that are not. The key to understanding this is not the virgins, but

the oil. Oil in the Bible represents the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Christ, which means anointed one. In the Old Testament when you were called into service you were anointed with oil. We as Christians have been anointed by the Holy Spirit when we came to faith in Christ. Here is just one example...

1 Samuel 16:13

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward.

So, this would mean the contrast is that we should be ready as those virgins that were ready and waiting for the wedding to begin. In a Galilean wedding the father is the one who would tell the son to go get His bride when He decided that the attachment to the house was finished. This was a game they played that everyone had to be ready and when the father blew the ram's horn at midnight then the wedding would begin. So, who were those who were not ready? People that thought they were but were not. A scary thought but one that has to be thought about. The picture cannot be clearer. The wedding has started, and the door is shut. It's too late. They should have been ready. Jesus told us about these kinds of people already...

Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and

done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Notice it is the same thing he says to the foolish virgins; “I never knew you”. But the whole story is applied like this...

Matthew 25:13

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Remember Matthew was written to believing Jews that needed their Eschatology corrected. They would be part of the Church and the church will be raptured at a day or an hour no one expects just like a Galilean wedding.

The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

Now we could spend a long time picking this apart and making conjectures on items like why did they take the one and give it to the guy with ten, which we don't know and can miss the point of the whole story and that is if you are a wise servant as we heard in the first one, working, and you are a wise virgin in the next that is waiting and watching, what will you be doing? You will be about the father's business! Not hiding out in the mountains waiting for the end of the tribulation. Not selling everything you have and waiting out in a field for the Rapture. No, you will be about the

work that God has called you to do, knowing there is a reward for your work.

Matthew 6:19-21

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

We are to work for rewards

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 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. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

Romans 14:10-12

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

Please remember not to condemn yourself that you are not doing enough. They did not get rewarded for how hard they worked...

Matthew 25:21

Well done, good and faithful servant

You are just to be faithful with what the Lord has given you. Numbers don't matter only your heart and attitude. If you are really His watching and waiting you will be working. If you are not His, the contrast would look like this...

Matthew 25:24-25

Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid.

The idea that Lord is showing us in this story is this man did not know Him. He never had a relationship with Him. Oh, he may have

a knowledge of God. Maybe He even has a bible, but it was just buried away somewhere.

You can see how if we were to derive doctrine from a parable that we could easily come up with a works-based gospel. “Oh, brother you don’t want to be unprofitable and be lost in the day of judgement!” This parable is meant for Jewish believers that were waiting for the Kingdom and needed to be told that they will have to wait for that and while they are waiting to get about working. The principles apply to us, and we should be about our Father’s business, faithful with the gifts He has bestowed on us until He comes to take us home.

Finally, we are left with this last one that is more of a statement with some parabolic language than a parable itself. Let’s look at it...

The Judgment of the Nations

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus is now leaving them with what I would call an addendum. He is giving them a little more than what they asked for to begin with. This section of scripture has been used out of context for many a ministry. You will read people proclaiming that they are helping the “Least of These.” Is Jesus talking about the homeless? If we are to understand the context and the audience that Jesus is talking to then we discover that this is when Jesus comes again at His second coming and He is judging the nations that are going to

go into the Millennial Kingdom. We are told in Joel at the end of the Tribulation...

Joel 3:2

I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.

Now from just that one verse we can find out who Jesus is talking about here. As hard as it is to believe there will be remnant of people and nations that will make it through the tribulation that will live into the millennium. They will be those that did not take the mark of the beast and not only were able to avoid being killed but were also able to help hide and rescue Jews that are escaping the Antichrist.

Revelation 12:13-14

Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

“Nourished”? By whom? The nation of Jordan which would include that ancient people of Ammon, Moab, and Edom. Isn't it interesting that Jordan is not mentioned in Ezekiel 38-39 or in one of the nations in the campaign of Armageddon?

So, we can see that there is a special place for nations that will be for Israel in the tribulation period. Again, this is supposed to connect us back to the book of Daniel.

Daniel 12:11-12

And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

Many of us believe that this 75-day interval is when this will happen. We will talk about that in our Daniel study when we get there. But let us not walk away without the principle. If we are to apply this correctly than the “My Brethren” Jesus is referring to in our day would be fellow Christians. We are to be helping one another and seeking their welfare. Remember we are the body of Christ, and we are to love and care for one another. This is not an evangelical section that Jesus is referring to helping the poor as a means to share the gospel. We are to do that, but this is not the section telling us to do it. Remember we have to look at all scripture in its context.

One more thought we want to leave you with today...

Matthew 25:41

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...”

Notice what hell was created for? Do you know it is not His desire that you go there? It was not His intention for you be there.

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

That means that He wants you to change your mind about yourself and realize you need his forgiveness to be saved. God is waiting for you to do that and has provided the way for you to be saved and not land up in the everlasting fire.

Romans 10:13

For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

You do not have to go to hell, call on Him today!