

Keeping Watch

Ready for the Day and Hour

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What We Will Learn

- Christ gave a series of teaching
- To explain he will return (second coming)
- To separate and remove people that have lived according to God's purpose
- He explained the criteria for judgment
- Reward for people selected
- Punishment for the other people
- Matthew 24 and 25

What We Will Learn cont'd

- What people need to do to be ready
- Time unknown to all except God
- Righteous will be separated and removed
- Instantaneously everywhere
- Live in righteousness
- To be judged as righteous
- Matthew 24:26–51 and 25:1–13

End of the Age—Final Judgment

- Jesus told his disciples
- In response to their question
- He will return with his angels
- To separate and remove the righteous
- At the same instant everywhere
- Unannounced
- Time and day not known except by God
- Matthew 24:30–31, 26–27, 36–42

Matthew 24 (NIV)

30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Matthew 24 (NIV)

26 “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the wilderness,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.

27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew 24 (NIV)

36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark;

Matthew 24 (NIV)

39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left.

Matthew 24 (NIV)

41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Faithful and Wise Servant

- Describes basis for judgment
- Servant in charge of household
- While master was on travel
- Does servant perform his duty all the time?
- Does he take advantage to abandon duty?
- What if master returns unexpected?
- Matthew 24:45–51

Matthew 24 (NIV)

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?”

46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.

47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

Matthew 24 (NIV)

48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,'

49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards.

Matthew 24 (NIV)

50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of.

51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- Being prepared for God means performing your assigned responsibilities all the time

Parable of the Ten Virgins

- Ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom
- Five took extra oil in jars for their lamp
- Other five took their lamps but no extra oil
- Bridegroom took a long time in coming
- The five virgins ran out of oil
- Went out to buy oil for their lamps
- Matthew 25:1–9

Matthew 25 (NIV)

1 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

Matthew 25 (NIV)

4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’”

7 “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.

Matthew 25 (NIV)

8 The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

9 “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

Parable of the Ten Virgins cont'd

- While the five were out to buy oil
- Bridegroom arrived
- The ready five went in for the banquet
- Door was shut
- Five that went to buy oil arrived later but were not admitted into the banquet
- Were not ready when bridegroom arrived
- Matthew 25:10–13

Matthew 25 (NIV)

10 “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

Matthew 25 (NIV)

11 “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Ready in Righteousness

- Live in the image of God
- Represent God in every interaction
 - Your actions radiate Godliness
 - Provide opportunities for people to feel God
- Perform your provider assistant duties
 - Be attentive to recognize needs in your path
 - Care for the needy
 - Commit to providing for the need
 - Persevere until you succeed

Three Related Parables

- Parable of the Ten Virgins
 - Always be ready for God's judgment
- Parable of the Talents
 - God grants capabilities for human service
- Parable of the Sheep and the Goats
 - Separation of people into two categories:
 - Righteous will inherit eternal life
 - Wicked will inherit eternal punishment

Apostle Peter on Being Ready

- End of all things is near
- How to be ready
 - Clear mind and self control so you can pray
 - Love each other deeply
 - Offer hospitality without grumbling
 - Use your gift to serve others
 - Convey Godliness in speech and service
- 1 Peter 4:7–11

1 Peter 4 (NIV)

7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.

8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

1 Peter 4 (NIV)

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

11 If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

What We Learned

- To be ready for God's judgment
- At all times
- Live in righteousness
- Fulfill your responsibilities
- As God's provider assistant
- Live in the image of God