

Matthew Chapter 25

- This chapter is a continuation of chapter 24, the main message is still to watch and be ready, for we don't know the day or the hour.
- The whole discourse was prompted by questions posed by the disciples in Ch. 24, and having answered them, he uses these parables to describe the conditions that will exist at the time of his second coming.

Matthew 24:3 “And as He sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, tell us:

1. “When shall these things be?” (Destruction of the Temple)
 2. “And what shall be the sign of thy coming?”
 3. “And what shall the sign of the end of the world?”
- The parables show a sense of expectancy; many are going to be caught by surprise, so watch and be ready!
 - Most parables have a primary or particular message or emphasis, we shouldn't try to read too much into them. Spiritualizing the parables can bring you to almost any conclusion you want.
 - This is a three fold message: bottom line on this chapter.
 1. Jesus is coming soon.
 2. Watch for Him.
 3. Be ready, occupy
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V: 1-13 Parable of 10 virgins. **Eastern betrothal, engagement, & wedding**: in a typical wedding the groom and his friends went to the bride's house to get the bride and bring her back to his father's house for the wedding feast. The bride knew in general when that time would be, but not the day or the hour, she had to be ready. (Father negotiates, then determines the time, sends the Son.)

- Speaking of the Church and the rapture. Only true believers, filled with the Holy Spirit will be taken up, allowed to enter at that time.

V: 1 “Then” – when? – In the last days.

Significant #

“Ten” 10 commandments, 10 men to establish a synagogue. 10 represents the Law, 5 is the number of grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹not of works, lest any man should boast.”

- 10 virgins, not 10 women, or 10 wives; 10 virgins representing the bride of Christ.

Virgin: not had intimate relations or committed fornication, (physical / spiritual).

Requirements for the High Priest:

Leviticus 21:13-14 “¹³And he shall take a wife in her virginity. ¹⁴A widow, or a divorced woman, or profane, or an harlot, these shall he not take: but he shall take a virgin of his own people to wife.”

- “Bridegroom” – the church’s relationship to Jesus is as a bride to her husband.
- Speaking of and identifying with the “**Bride of Christ**”

Ephesians 5:23-27, 32 “²³For the husband is head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. ²⁴Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; ²⁶That He might sanctify* and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷that He might present it to Himself, a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” – “³²This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

Men / husbands: responsibility. Young men: litmus test

Revelation 19:7 “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready.”

- There is a time of preparation that takes place.
- Sunday mornings / early events: who’s ready / who just rolled out of the sack.

Revelation 21:2, 9. How did she make herself ready? John 15:3...

V: 2 5 “wise”, 5 “foolish”, seemingly all believers.

- What is the difference between the wise and the foolish?
- Jesus gives us part of the answer in the previous chapter.

Matthew 24:45-46 “⁴⁵Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? ⁴⁶Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.”

Remember how Jesus restored Peter by the Sea of Galilee? “Feed My sheep”

- If wisdom is linked to faithfulness, then foolishness is linked to lack of faithfulness.

Faith: and faithfulness is the issue...

Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

- Faith is a call to action; doing something based on what we believe.

James 2:17-19 ¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

¹⁸Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. ¹⁹Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”

- Faith is a call to action; doing something based on what we believe. In this case it's the action of preparation knowing that our Lord is returning soon.
- Later the “foolish” / un-faithful are not accepted, cast out with the hypocrites.
- The other distinction that we see in the next verse is whether they took oil with them or not.

V: 3 The foolish “took no oil” They were short sighted, not looking ahead.

- Oil is representative or symbolic of the Holy Spirit. (Exodus 27:20, Leviticus 10:7, Hebrews 1:9)
- The ministry of the Holy Spirit is an interesting subject all by itself. There are some denominations and churches that either over emphasize or abuse the supposed ministry of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to be a bad witness.
- At the same time there are other denominations and churches that completely ignore or discount the ministry of the Holy Spirit. (Both of which are contrary to God's Word.)
- We believe that both extremes are incorrect, and that there is a balance to be struck which is based on God's word.
- Calvary Chapel is technically a “Pentecostal” body of believers, because we believe in the perpetuity of the giftings and ministry of the Holy Spirit. At the same time we believe that there is a definite order to these giftings and ministry, being exercised within the limits of God's word, exercises within His perfect will.
- We want to make sure that we have our “oil” – we don't want to be left on the outs with God.
- Oil speaks of consecration, being set aside for God's use and purposes.

Exodus 30:22-32 Holy Anointing Oil, used to consecrate tabernacle, the ark of the Testimony, lamp stand, utensils, and the Priests.

- Prophets, priests, and kings were anointed with oil; it was needful because of the offices they held.
- Jesus Christ: Jesus the Christ, Jesus The Anointed One
- Christ, Mesheach = anointed.
- How was Jesus anointed?

Matthew 3:16-17 ¹⁶“And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: ¹⁷And lo a voice from heaven, saying, this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

John 1:32 “And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him.”

Quoting from Isaiah, Jesus said in:

Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set a liberty them that are bruised, ¹⁹to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

- ***Jesus is the Anointed One.***

V: 4 “**But** *the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*”

- It is difficult to carry oil in your hand, or in your pocket...

2 Corinthians 4:7 “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

- Paul is referring to “believers” those who are “born again”.

1 Peter 3:7 “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel ...”

Leviticus Ch. 14 Details the cleansing of a leper who has been healed. Part of the process is taking two birds, and killing one in an earthen vessel over running water. The other elements involved are cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop.

Ephesians 5:15 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

Jesus said:

John 3:3 “Jesus answered and said to him, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

John 3:5-7 “⁵Jesus answered, verily, verily I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again.”

Adam / Eve, sin, spiritual death vs physical death.

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

1 Corinthians 6:19 “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”

- Distinction between the death of those who are saved and those who are not.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

- Between verses 3 & 4; the distinction between the foolish and the wise is taking oil in their lamps / vessels – being saved before that time.

V: 5 While the bridegroom “tarried”, **all** the virgins slept.

- 2 Perspectives: security and false security.

Security:

Psalms 23:1-3 “¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

Psalms 91:1 “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

- **False security:** Loss of excitement, awareness, sense of immediacy.

Song 5:2, 6 “²I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night.” –
She didn’t respond right away, she delayed - “⁶I opened to my beloved; but my beloved

had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.”

- **The tragedy of delay and missed opportunity.**
- Only those who are watching and waiting will respond right away – and be ready.

Romans 13:11 “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”

- Be ready!

1 Thessalonians 5:6 “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober.” (clear minded)

V: 6 He’s here! *“Go out to meet him”*

- Our going out to meet Him is when the trumpet is sounded!
- Ekklesia / church, means the called out ones. (Called up ones!)

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 “¹⁶For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

Matthew 22:14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

V: 7 Everybody’s awake, taking stock, taking action.

V: 8-9 The virgins who didn’t have oil, asked those who did have oil to share or give of their oil.

- Just like believers who have the Holy Spirit in them today, we cannot give non-believers the Holy Spirit, we can only direct them to the source, it is God who gives life and it is God who gives the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- How is it that the five foolish virgins came without oil?
- They didn’t see the need, or they didn’t realize that they were running low?
- How do we know if we’re running low, or if we’re on empty?
 - ❖ Have we become indifferent to the word of God, or accepting of sin?
 - ❖ Have we gone back to the old life, have old habits slipped back in?
 - ❖ **Ask God to search your heart.**

Psalm 139:23-24 “²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; ²⁴and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

1 John 2:15-17 “¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

Speaking of the Holy Spirit

John 16:8 “And when He has come, He will reprove / convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

- The litmus isn't necessarily just whether we're in sin or not, the real test is how we respond to our sin. Are we convicted? Do we just shrug it off?

Romans 8:16 “The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God.”

- Are we or have we become indifferent to God's word?
- When we hear the word of God does our Spirit get excited?
- When we hear worship do we want to join in?
- Or are we thinking about what we want to do after the study, or how the 49'ers are doing?

Net effect: turning away from the groom and going in the opposite direction.

If Jesus hasn't called us to Himself yet, then there is still time to get with the program. There is still time to draw near, to wait and watch expectantly.

V: 10 ***“They that were ready went in with him”***

**** This is the main point of the whole parable ** *Be ready!***

2 Peter 1:10 “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

1 John 2:28 “And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at his coming.”

“And the door was shut” God is the one who shut the door.

Genesis 7:16 “And they went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commended him: and the Lord shut him in.”

Revelation 3:7 “... these things saith He that is holy, He that is True, He that hath the key of David, He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.”

Luke 13:25-27 ²⁵When once the Master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: ²⁶Then shall ye begin to say, we have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. ²⁷But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. ²⁸There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.”

V: 11 “Lord, Lord” Just like the other times this phrase is used. It is not enough to be a professing Christian, we must truly trust, and have faith in Jesus:

Matthew 7:21-23 ²¹Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”

Luke 6:46 “And why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

- This should motivate us to really want to be sure:

Luke 21:36 “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

2 Peter 1:10 “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

- Faith is a gift of the Spirit. **1 Corinthians 12:9**

We also know:

Romans 10:17 “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

V: 12 “*I know you not*” – Present tense, He doesn’t deny ever knowing them, He simply doesn’t know them now.

- Not what we want to hear! Why did He not know them?

Psalm 5:5 “The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.”

Habakkuk 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity:...”

John 9:31 “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth.”

V: 13 “*Watch therefore...* much like “fear not”, a seemingly often repeated exhortation.

1 Corinthians 16:13 “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit / act you like men, be strong.”

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Matthew 24:42, 44 “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.” – “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Clue:

Matthew 24:37-39 “But as the days of Noah...”

2 Timothy 3:1-5 “¹This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ²For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, un-holy, ³without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures, more than lovers of God; ⁵having a form of Godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

Matthew 24:48 “But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming,”

What are we to do? Watch! (not TV)

Picture: Servant by the window.

- How do we see God? In God’s people, in God’s Word, in His presence – don’t let Him out of your sight.

John 8:31-32 “³¹... if ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; ³²and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

1 John 2:28 “And now little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at his coming.”

V: 14-30 Jesus is going away into Heaven, He has given to His servants His goods, He'll be back to take an account.

V: 14 The goods / resources were given to “His own servants” – not His enemies.

- Servants (G-1401) “**doulos**”, slave, bond servant.
- There are 7 other words in the Greek NT that are translated as various types of “servants” that could have been used. The use of this word would seem to indicate a “believer”

1. G-1249 *diakonos* - (waiter)
2. G-1401 *doulos* – (slave, bond servant, willing slave.)
3. G-2324 *therapon* – (attendant, servant of God, spoken of Moses.)
4. G-3407 *misthios* -(hired servant)
5. G-3411 *misthotos* - (hireling)
6. G-3610 *oiketes* - (household servant);
7. G-3816 *pais* /paheece (man servant, maidservant, attendant, child.)
8. G-5257 *huperetes* /hoop-ay-ret:ace – (officer, minister, steward)

V: 15 To every man according to his ability:

- 3000 Shekels = 1 talent = 75 pounds. (\$28.11 / oz. = \$33,600.00)

5 talents: \$168,660.00 2 talents: \$ 67,464.00 1 talent: \$ 33,732.00

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 “⁴Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. ⁶And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. ⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”

1 Corinthians 12:11 “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.”

Psalms 103:14 “For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.”

Romans 12:6 “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us....”

1 Corinthians 15:10 “But by the grace of God I am what I am: and His grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”

V: 16-17 He who received the talents “*went*” into action with them, didn’t wait around.

1 Peter 4:10 “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

1 Timothy 4:14 “Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery / elders.”

James 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

James 1:25 “But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

V: 18 “But” – contrast.

- Digging in the ground creates a “pit”, otherwise known as a “grave”.
- The ground was cursed in Genesis 3:17.
- Motivation was bitterness & fear (vv: 25)

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

V: 19 “*After a long time*” – Jesus is preparing the disciples that they might have to wait; they thought that His kingdom would be immediate.

2 Peter 3:8 “But beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

Romans 8:22 “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.”

- Occupy, be diligent, He could come at any time.

Luke 19:13 "... occupy till I come." Be busy about the Master's business!

- "Reckoneth" to take account: There is always a day of reckoning:

Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed for men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

- Warning / preparing the disciples for a day of "reckoning", different though for believers and for non-believers.

Revelation 22:12 "And, behold, I com quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give to every man according as his work shall be."

Romans 14:10-12 ¹⁰But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ¹¹For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God. ¹²So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 ⁹Wherefore we labour, that, whether, present or absent, we may be accepted of Him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (Bema seat)

- **Believers** sins were judged and paid for at Calvary, this judgment is of works only:

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 ¹¹For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

- **Non-believers** - Their sins are yet to be judged ,yet to be paid for:

Revelation 20:11-15 ¹¹And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Matthew 25:31-32 ³¹“When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: ³²And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth His sheep from the goats:”

V: 21 Note: much like “faithful & wise” no “good” & “faithful” tied together.

- Faith is a necessary ingredient:

Hebrews 11:6 “...without faith it is impossible to please God.”

- Started out as a servant, promoted to a ruler.
- Brought into the joy of the Lord.
- This time on Earth is our proving ground, the present determines our future. Faithfulness is the key!

V: 22-23 Same rewards as the other servant, not because of the amount of increase, but because of the faithfulness to use what they have for the glory of God.

- We have a responsibility in all this. We’re not saved by works; our “works” are a natural response to what God has done in us and for us.

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

- Actions not only speak louder than words, but they speak to who we really are, they help to define us:

James 2:17-18 ¹⁷“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

1 John 3:18 “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

V: 24 **Servant judging the master?** Judging God. ☹ Saying in essence that the Master was taking advantage of the poor and oppressing them.

- “Knew” = Genesco. His perspective, he thought he knew, but he was mistaken! Or possibly deceived, having given ear to the enemy.

- Hard (G-4642) *skleros* /sklay·ros; “hard”, “fierce”, harsh, rough, stiff, stern, violent, rough, offensive, intolerable.
- When we criticize or judge; we put ourselves above – because we know better. “If I were God I’d...”

- Not knowing or understanding the nature & character of God.
- God is for us in every way.

Matthew 22:29 “Jesus answered and said unto them, ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.” – Or the character of God.

- Hard man? This servant had a false / incorrect perspective of his master, he didn’t know the master. The master’s burden / yoke is never hard.

Isaiah 45:9 “Woe to him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to Him that fashioneth it, what makest thou? Or thy work, he hath no hands?”

Romans 9:20-21 ²⁰“Nay but, O man, who are thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, why hast thou made me thus? ²¹Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?”

Philippians 2:13-14 ¹³“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. ¹⁴“Do all things without murmurings and disputings:”

Psalm 37:4 “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

- Reaping where he has not sown, implying that he was dishonest? Who brings forth the increase?

1 Corinthians 3:7 “So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”

V: 25 “afraid”, not a fruit of the spirit, but of the flesh. **Faith and fear are mutually exclusive.**

1 John 4:18 “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”

2 Timothy 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 “¹Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

Jesus said:

Matthew 5:14-16 “¹⁴Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

- We’re not called to hide the light, the blessings, or the testimony – we’re called to proclaim it! That our Lord would be glorified.

V: 26 “*Wicked*”, why?

Answer:

1. Because he was judging his master wrongly.
2. He didn’t do what he knew to be right, he was disobedient.
3. He was un-faithful. **Hebrews 11:6**

¹**Matthew 7:1** “Judge not, that ye be not judged.”

²**James 4:17** “Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin..”

- “*Slothful / Lazy*”, why? Answer: Because he didn’t do anything.

Proverbs 21:25 “The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labor.”

Proverbs 26:13-16 “¹³The slothful man saith, there is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets. ¹⁴As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed. ¹⁵The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth. ¹⁶The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.”

V: 27 Seemingly if he had done anything, if done at least a minimum, he would not have judged this way.

V: 28-29 What little the wicked servant has will be taken from him.

2 Corinthians 6:1 “We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”

Revelation 22:11-12 “¹¹He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. ¹²And behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

Romans 1:21-22 “²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,”

V: 30 Un-profitable = un-fruitful = useless.

John 15:1-6 “¹I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. ²Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ³Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. ⁵I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing. ⁶If a man abide not in Me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”

Observations: This servant was

1. Given a talent.
 2. He was a servant in the household.
 3. He is judged and removed from the house.
 4. In this place, in outer darkness, there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.
 5. In Heaven there is no darkness, weeping, or gnashing of teeth!
- This again raises the issue of eternal security. Weeping and gnashing of teeth aren't speaking of Heaven. This thought needs to be balanced against verses that speak of eternal security such as:

Matthew 28:20, Romans 8:35-39, Hebrews 13:5

John 10:28-29 “²⁸And I give them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand. ²⁹My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's hand.”

Hebrews 6:4-6 “⁴For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”

2 Peter 2:20-21 “²⁰For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. ²¹For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”

- If nothing else, these verses leave us with a debatable question regarding eternal security, my conclusion is that our only real security is in **abiding in Christ**, obediently doing what he has commanded us to do.

John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches, he that abideth in Me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without Me ye can do nothing.”

V: 31-46 This describes that final judgment of the world after the great tribulation: survival to the end doesn't necessarily mean acceptance into Heaven.

V: 31 Referring to His 2nd coming and the beginning of the 1,000 year reign.

Revelation 19:11-14 “¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. ¹²His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. ¹³And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies which were in Heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.”

Zechariah 14:4 “And His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west;...”

V: 32-33 This culling of the flock; this separation is the same as judgement, and is illustrated in the parable of the dragnet.

Matthew 13:47-50 “⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: ⁴⁸Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. ⁴⁹So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just.”

V: 32-33 (cont.)

Malachi 3:18 “Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.”

- Nations refers not just to countries, but to peoples, tribes, tongues etc.
- People are usually referred to as sheep, not goats. Saved sheep, lost sheep, but not goats.
- Sheep are dumb, but they know the voice of their Master / Shepherd and will follow Him.

John 10:27 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

- Goats have a different nature and will not follow; they must be driven from behind.
- There are basically two judgments described in the Bible: The first judgment is for those whose sins were already judged or atoned for on the cross at Calvary – the judgment of the believer’s deeds:
- This is known as the Bema seat judgment:

2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment ^(bema) seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

Romans 14:10-12

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 “¹²Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay stubble; ¹³every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. ¹⁴If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”

- The 2nd judgment described in the Bible is that of un-repentant sinners who would not receive the substitutionary payment for their sins upon the cross of Jesus – those who rejected that free gift and would now make payment themselves.
- The “Great White Throne Judgment”.

Revelation 20:11-15 “¹¹And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea

gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

V: 34-40 This probably refers to how the 144,000 evangelists and converts are treated by those in the world during the last half of the tribulation period.

V: 34 “Inherit”, as His children we have an inheritance.

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.”

1 John 3:2 “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”

Romans 8:17 “and if children, then heirs – heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

- God’s desire from the beginning has been to have fellowship with us, that we would willingly submit to him and that He would rule over us, all things in harmony with His will, in subjection to Jesus Christ.

John 14:2-3 “²In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 “But as it is written: Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.”

V: 35-36 There is an expectation of some kind of action, service, manifestation of faith.

James 1:22 “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

James 2:15-18 “¹⁵If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶and one of you say unto them, depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? ¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works:

shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

After his 2nd arrest:

2 Timothy 1:16 “The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain.”

- When Paul was arrested the 2nd time, it was not house arrest as before. He was taken to the Mamertine prison – a hole in the ground.

1 John 3:18 “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

- From these verses we can derive some very practical ministries:
 1. Feeding the poor, meeting the needs of the homeless.
 2. Clothing, comfort, companionship.

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1. Feeding those that are starving spiritually God’s word. **Matthew 4:4**
 2. Thirsty: give them living water. **John 7:37**
 3. Communion; the meat offering – broken bread and poured out wine.
 4. The offering of fellowship, taking in the stranger, the sojourner.
 5. Clothing the naked, pointing them to the One who can clothe them in righteousness.
 6. Sick; leprous – in need of cleansing by the word.
 7. Prison: those in bondage to sin – given liberty in Christ Jesus, free from the power of sin.

V: 37-39 These good and faithful servants are called “righteous”.

- Only the righteous will inherit the kingdom of God, and that only by the blood of Jesus.
- Those that are called “righteous” did something:

Romans 1:17 “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith.”

- Faith is manifest in action.

V: 40 “My brethren” referring to the Jews.

Genesis 12:3 “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

Proverbs 19:17 “He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.”

Matthew 10:40 “He that receiveth you receiveth Me, and he that receiveth Me receiveth Him that sent Me.”

Matthew 18:5 “And whoso shall receive one such little child in My name receiveth Me.”

Hebrews 6:10 “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

V: 41 Hell is eternal separation from the presence of God.

- “cursed” - “everlasting fire” - “prepared for the Devil and his angels”.

2 Peter 2:4 “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.”

Isaiah 66:24 “And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against Me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.”

V: 42-44 Sin of commission vs sin of omission.

James 4:17 “Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

V: 45 Negligence

Hebrews 13:1-2 “¹Let brotherly love continue. ²be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

V: 46 Parable of tares: **Matthew 13: 24-30, 37-43.**

P866 **Psalm 1:1-6** “¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ²But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. ⁴The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. ⁵Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. ⁶For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

CONCLUSIONS DRAWN FROM THE OLIVET DISCOURSE:

1. God is not done with Israel or the Jews.
2. We are commanded to watch, wait, and be ready.
3. While we wait, we are to occupy and stay busy doing His will.
4. We're to be looking for Jesus, not signs, or someone else.
5. Eternal security is only secure to those who abide in Christ, otherwise it's a question, and that doesn't strike me as very secure.

- Three key verses for this chapter:

Luke 21: 36 “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

2 Peter 1:10 “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

1 John 2:28 “And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”