

Title: Be Ready - Jesus is Coming

Text Matthew 24:43-25:13

I would like you to turn in your Bibles, to Matthew chapter 24. Matthew chapter 24 and I would like to begin reading at Vs 43. Our subject is: BE READY--JESUS IS COMING.

You know that from Vs 3 of this chapter that the disciples ask Jesus three questions. ① When shall these things be? That is the destruction of the temple of Jerusalem which he predicted. Which is recorded in fulfillment in Luke chapter 21.

And then two other questions: ~~What~~² What shall be the sign of your coming and the sign of the end of the age. Jesus is talking about a Jewish age that will end ~~at~~^{with} the time of Jacobs trouble, the greatest tribulation that the world has ever seen. Jesus will return at the end of this tribulation period to set up a new age, a kingdom where he will reign in Jerusalem as King.

7 years before the end of the age, the church, the Body of Christ, will be caught up by Christ to meet him in the Air...

We are discussing the end of ~~the~~^{This Jewish} age. We are discussing the period of time right before Christ returns in power and great glory. ^{8/10} But, my I remind you that 7 years previous, is when he will come for his church.

So, the events we study in Matthew 24 and 25 are referring to ~~Jewish~~ people, who go through the Tribulation. And the teaching is given to Jewish people. ~~the~~

Let's begin reading at Vs 43-

Read 24:43-45:13

Shall we pray

BE READY---OUR LORD IS COMING. There are three simple illustrations that our Lord gave us as to why we should be ready. He gave us three simple reasons based on three simple illustrations.

Number one, the illustration of the householder(Vs 43-44).

Number two, the illustration of a servant in Vs 45-51)

And then in chapter 25:1-13 the illustration of 10 virgins.

What do these mean? What is God trying to say? May I suggest the following ideas.

In the illustration of the householder, it is the NEWS OF HIS COMING. And that is the prime reason why we should be ready. And it is in the negative. There is no news. There will be no advance preparation. There will be no ~~advance~~ ^{advance} warning when Jesus will return in Power and Great Glory.....We look at that and we say: "May, wait a minute. When the tribulation period starts, we know that Daniel's 70th week is 7 years. ^{So} Don't we know when Jesus will come back?"

Beloved, we who have the Word of God, we who belong to the Body of Christ, must remember, that the moment Jesus comes in the air, we will be caught up to meet him. We will be in heaven. ^{and thus} There will be no more prophetic voices, ^{Heb Spirit} until the 144,000 Jews, empowered by God, will take the gospel message to every nation, Son, and people.

The news is that Jesus is coming at any moment. And we don't know the hour. Therefore, we must be ready. Because the householder has no warning from the thief. Otherwise, he would have been prepared..

And my friend, if that is true about when Christ comes at the end of the Tribulation period, HOW MUCH MORE TRUE IT IS, NOW....You have no assurance, no confidence, that Jesus will not come in the next moment. He may come before this service is over. And the Bible says: BE READY, JESUS IS COMING.

(2 In the second illustration. The illustration of the servant who was made by his Lord to be ruler over his household to give food in due season. I believe we have illustrated here a reason for being ready. And that is the nature of our responsibility .

The Responsibility

The servant was given a ~~task~~ to give food. The Lord has gone. The servant is left. Give them food in due season.

Jesus said that there ~~are~~ two responses among such servants *towards one's responsibility*

(1) One, when he knows the Lord is coming...He is found so doing. He is distributing food.

(2) But the evil servant is the one who says I don't see the Lord coming. The Lord is delaying his coming. *it has been 2000 years* Therefore, he treats his fellow servants by smiting him with words or physical *abuse* and he begins to eat, drink, and be marry. Living it up and living his life according to the dictates of self with no awareness that Jesus is coming at any moment.

May I remind you that we, in a sense, are servants over a great household...To give food..to give the bread of life...If there ever was a motivation for getting the Gospel out, for giving the world the bread of life, it is that Jesus is coming. He may come tonight. And our responsibility is clear.... Jesus said: Make disciples of all nations. **Go** preach and teach the gospel to all...

The nature of our responsibility is a tremendous reason to be ready. Because the Lord is coming. That song says: "Shall I meet him empty handed, Must I go to meet my saviour ~~empty~~ handed?"

Are you available?....Can God use you *yes* to bring the bread of life to a hungry world? We have a tremendous responsibility. AND JESUS IS COMING?....How many folks have *we* ~~you~~ talked to about Jesus this past week? How many folks during this past week, have *we* ~~you~~ even shared *our* ~~your~~ faith with?.....JESUS IS COMING SOON.

And I wonder, when he comes, what he is going to think of us? One commission, one command he gave to us: MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS. What will *he* think of us?

Paul said: "When I get to glory, I will have a crown of rejoicing.." And what will *it* be? He looked at that Church of Thessalonian and he said: "You are my crown of rejoicing." He had wone them to Christ.

What will ~~he~~ think of us?....Will he be able to say, "Well, done thy good and faithful servant." ^{God} ~~He~~ will not be ^{to} concerned about how active we have been in holding offices in the church. As important as that is.... He is not going to be concerned with how much money you have giving to the church. For he owns all of that anyway....He will evaluate that on our wise stewardship.....He owns everything we have. *you cannot out give God*

The ~~one~~ thing that is on God's heart...is ^{to} reach the world for Himself. And he wants to use christians. And yet, over and over again, we Christians rebell at this. We fight, we forget it, and we think we are alright....We think we are growing in christ. We think that God is blessing us by attending the services and we think by listening to the messages that some how ~~we~~ are doing ~~what~~ God wants us to do....

But, all of this is only a means of doing the main job that Christ has given to each believer: Go into the world and make disciples of all people. My friends, Jesus is coming. We have a tremendous task. We are servants intruded with bread. The bread of life.

(3) Then third, that simple illustration of the 10 virgins. In these first 13 verses of chapter 25, we have the parable of the ~~10~~ virgins. The subject is: Be Prepared for the Bridegroom is coming.

Now, the thought involved is that of a Jewish wedding in which there are two ^{part} ~~phases~~ separated by one year. The Last ^{part} ~~phases~~ is under discussion in Matthew 25. And that is, the bridgroom is coming and he is going to enter into the marriage at the home of the bride.

Jewish wedding are divided into to parts. In the first ^{part} ~~phases~~, it was customary for the bride to come to the bridgroom's house. This singled the beginning of the engagment period. The time between the ~~beginning~~ beginning of the engagment until the marriage itself was one year in length.

As a matter of fact, this custom was so strong that it took, according to Jewish law, a written divorcement to break the engagement of one year in length from the marriage itself. Engagements were binding.

So, the first thing that happens at the beginning of the engagement period is that the bride goes to the bridegrooms house to meet his parants. Then follows a year engagement. The marriage is finally performed at the end of the one year engagement when the bridegroom comes to the bride's house. The wedding ceremony is held followed by a big feast that lasting for one week.

Some people like to see in this marriage supper a reference to the fact that when the rapture occurs, before the 7 years period of tribulation, the bridegroom, our Lord Jesus Christ, is going to take the bride to His house, and we will be in heaven. Then, he will come back to this earth and we will be his bride for a great marriage supper of the lamb.

Now, if you want to pull that out of this passage, fine. Personally, I don't think that is good interpretation.

Now
~~For, you see,~~ what is under discussion, here, is that last, final, *part* phase of the engagement period.

There are 10 virgins. The discussion centers around the fact that five have oil for their lamps----they are prepared to go into this marriage--and five did not have oil for their lamps---thus they are unprepared for the coming of the Messiah. And these ¹⁰ virgins are referring to people who are living during the tribulation period. And the teaching is to be ready for the coming of Jesus.

Now, as I have indicated before, if we are to be ready for that event, how much more are we to be ready, today, for an event that is not under discussion. And that is the rapture of the church. When Christ will come for believers at the beginning of the tribulation period. In a moment, in a twiling of an eye, we who believe in Christ will be caught up to meet him in the Air.....

And the Lord Jesus, in this parable, is giving us a basic reason for being ready. Jesus is Coming. The necessity of proper preparation.

I want to ask you, my friends, are you really prepared to meet Jesus? The Apostle John was so concerned about this, even among the believers, that he pleaded with ~~us~~ not to be ashamed at his coming. He hoped that we wouldn't be. And even though it might caught us by surprise, Oh, I believe we will be thrilled in that moment when we see Jesus. I think ~~everyone~~ ^{most} of us will be thrilled when we behold his glory and we are transformed in a moment of time into the likeness of Jesus...

But, on the other hand, some people, according to John will be ashamed at his coming. Some will hide from him. His presence and the glory of his appearance will cause some to be ashamed, ^{why} because God knows our hearts. He knows our motives. He knows ~~our~~ ^{our} true reasons, and when we are honest with ourselves, we know also. ^{We know we haven't been doing what God called us to do}

^{out} And at the great judgement seat of Christ when rewards are giving, God will evaluate us.....WILL WE BE PROPERLY PREPARED?

God warns us...He wants us to be prepared...He invites us to be prepared to watch and to be ready to occupy untill he comes.

And yet, 5 were foolish. They had no oil for their lamps. They were not ready to meet the bridegroom...And the bridegroom came and they were lost.

The principle interpretation here is whether the Jews will be ready when Christ comes in power and glory at the end of the tribulation period. But, it is just as true about each one of us here, today. ^{are} ~~have~~ we prepared to meet Christ?

If you have never, personally, settled the issue of your eternal salvation, then, it behooves you to do so today...Because Jesus is coming. BE READY THE LORD JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.

~~_____~~

If he comes today, there will be no more time for you to evaluate your life. Now, is the hour.....Now is the acceptable time....Now is the day of salvation...WHY?....Because there is no other time.

Do you have that assurance, personally, of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? I urge you to accept Christ today.

And my Christian friends, as we have seen ~~the~~ in this passage, it behooves us to be about our Father's work. When Christ comes may he find us busy in the vineyard, seeking to save those who are lost. May he

find us sharing our faith in love with friends, neighbors, and loved ones..... *may he find us filling the church each Lord's Day, not only with ourselves, but with those that we have witnessed*

Be ready.....Jesus is coming. *to and have invited to come here the gospel preached.*

Shall we pray