

Jesus' Olivet Discourse

Matthew 24 & 25



Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

Matthew 24:44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?"

Matthew 24:46 Blessed *is* that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

Matthew 24:47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

Matthew 24:48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'

Matthew 24:49 and begins to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

Matthew 24:50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him* and at an hour that he is not aware of,

Matthew 24:51 and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus compares His Second Coming to the stealth and unexpectedness of a thief robbing your house. It's a frequent comparison, found also in Luke, First Thessalonians, Second Peter, and the Revelation.

Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

It's obvious that a thief does not announce the moment of his coming. If you knew the moment you'd be ready and waiting to prevent him.

Matthew 24:44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

When there is a series of robberies you take extra precautions. The events of the last half of the Great Tribulation are like that – announcing the coming of the Lord and calling upon men on the earth to be ready to receive Him.

In this context, being **ready** is the equivalent of being saved.

From thief to master, Jesus presents another analogy:

Matthew 24:45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?"

Most modern households are made up only of immediate, sometimes extended, family members. Jesus was referencing something a little different. He identifies a **household** in which there is a **master** and his family as well as **servants** or slaves. In the analogy He is the **master** and who has gone on an extended trip leaving a certain servant (usually called a steward) in charge in His place.

To give them food in due season is the basic level of care and responsibility so it probably summarizes the general oversight of all the details of the household.

- being changed to bring change -

If you are a steward you want to be a **faithful and wise** one. That servant is described as,

Matthew 24:46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

The context is the Second Coming at the end of the seven-year Great Tribulation. The application works for the Rapture as well. Jesus will come imminently and we ought to be **ready**.

Readiness means saved. Since you're saved you will produce fruit as you serve the Lord. You'll be **faithful and wise**.

Faithfulness and wisdom are more than just outward manifestations of salvation. They are more than just duty and responsibility. They bring us blessing!

Want to be **blessed**? Be **faithful** with the life God has given you.

Want to be **blessed**? Exercise wisdom over the resources God has given you.

If you're not feeling blessed... Then look at your faithfulness; look at your wisdom. Chances are you are slacking-off and following your own or the world's wisdom rather than the Lord's.

Matthew 24:47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

Promotion is usually desirable. Here Jesus is referring to giving the believers who survive the Great Tribulation responsibilities in His earthy kingdom.

For us it reminds of the principle that if we are faithful in little things God can give us more to steward. We should always be desiring more service – but only after we've been faithful in our prerequisites.

Matthew 24:48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'

Matthew 24:49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

The **evil servant** represents nonbelievers at the Second Coming. They, too, are stewards in that God has given them life and opportunity to be saved.

Assaulting others and gluttony stand for selfishness and self-indulgence. Even after many merciful proofs of the Lord's soon coming they will remain hardened against His love and grace.

Matthew 24:50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,

Read the Revelation and it's hard to believe that many will be unaware of their eternal danger. Nevertheless the Lord will return and their opportunity to repent will be gone.

Matthew 24:51 and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Interesting, this mention of **the hypocrites**. It means these folks are confirmed nonbelievers. They have no religious pretenses. They're not acting pious and thinking they will be saved in the end.

Cut him in two is a graphic statement describing their death. On a spiritual level it reminds me of the comment by the writer to the Hebrews that God can divide between the soul and the spirit. His judgment will be perfect and right. Everyone who rejects Christ will get just what he or she deserves.

Weeping and gnashing of teeth is a biblical description of Hell. It portrays inconsolable grief and unremitting torment.

There is an old fable that goes like this:

Three devils were coming to the earth to finish their apprenticeship. They presented to Satan their plans to tempt and ruin men. The first said, "I will tell men that there is no God." Satan said, "That will not delude many, for they know there is a God." The second said, "I will tell men that there is no Hell." - Satan answered, "You will deceive few that way; men know that there is a Hell for sin." The third said, "I will tell men that there is no hurry." "Go," said Satan, "and you will ruin men by the thousands."

It is not small thing to say "Jesus is not coming today, or for several years" because your system of prophecy demands it. We need to be ready for the *imminent return* of Jesus Christ.