



Matthew

Lesson 25

READ CHAPTER 25

1. *What two questions from the disciples given in chapter 24 is Jesus still answering with the parables He gives in chapter 25?*
2. *In Matthew 24:32, Jesus begins a series of parables that give more explanation to the end time events that He has described. Give the basic details of each parable and identify what you think He was saying in them that correlates to the information He gave about His return.*

Matthew 24:32-35 Details

He was saying...

Matthew 24:36-42 Details

He was saying.....

Matthew 24:42-51 Details

He was saying...



The Olivet Discourse that makes up chapters 24-25 is a specific response to those two questions. In chapter 24, Jesus gives a breakdown of some particular events that would be the precursors to His second coming. Though He is very adamant that the day or time no one knows but God Himself, Jesus does give clues that would identify the general physical, social, and spiritual state of the world at that time. Because these events could take place in any generation, He ends that section with several stern warnings about the significance and necessity for believers to live in a state of constant readiness.

In chapter 25:1-13, Jesus continues His answer to the disciples but shifts the focus to what the kingdom of heaven will look like at this time. In this passage the phrase “kingdom of heaven” is referring to the active physical church on earth that is made up of those who say they believe in Christ though not all truly are. He has already taught in the parable of the wheat and the tares in Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43 that the kingdom will be a mixture of those who are internally, by faith, true believers and those who only externally look like Christians.

In 25:14-30, Jesus continues His answer to their questions with a parable regarding the priorities of true believers during the time between His ascension and His return. True followers of Christ will always use every aspect of their lives as opportunities for eternal investment in the kingdom according to the gifts given to them. And since the timing of His return is unknown and His return will be the final time of judgment, all generations must live in anticipation of this event.

In 25:31-46, Jesus explains the separation of the righteous and the wicked and the reward for both groups. This is also the time when the angels will separate the wheat and the tares as stated above. This is the final judgment.

3. *Using the information above and the details of Matthew 25:1-13, describe the similarities and differences between the two groups of virgins. What conclusions can you draw about the warnings Jesus is giving in this parable?*

4. *What principle about His return does Jesus repeat in Matthew 24:36, 42-44, 50, and 25:13?*

5. *Read the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-31. If the parable of the ten virgins in vs. 1-13 was given the title “Be prepared for His coming,” what would you title the parable of the talents?*

6. *Why do you think the man that was going on a journey gave his money to his slaves, and what do you think he expected them to do with it?*

7. *Why was the man who didn't invest his masters' money treated so harshly? Vs. 24-26. Assuming he knew what the master wanted him to do with the money, do you think the master's response was justified or too harsh? What personal lessons can be learned from these parables? Explain.*
8. *How does the beginning of Jesus next parable begin differently than the others He has given? Vs. 31*
9. *What is the simile that Jesus establishes? Vs. 32-33 See also Psalm 79:13 and Ezekiel 34.*
10. *According to vs. 34, how is the Son of Man referred to now, and what is He doing?*
11. *Give a short explanation of the difference between the sheep and the goats.*
- Sheep:*
- Goats:*
12. *Why do you think Jesus focused on their deeds instead of just their faith?*
13. *As you did in question 4, give this parable a short title.*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
