



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Sudden Arrival!

Matthew 25:1-30

Message #69 of 80 – S1109

Sermon given on July 7, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Sudden Arrival!!

Matthew 25:1-30

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 24**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Sudden Arrival!!**
- Chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew are focused on the future.
- Chapter 25 begins with two parables that have roughly the same message – be ready – Jesus is coming back!
- There has long been a debate about whether these parables apply to the church or to the remnants of Jews after the Rapture of the church.
- Because it is not clear, we should apply it to the church.
- After the Rapture the Jews who are left on the earth must apply it to themselves.
- **Matthew 25:1**
- The setting for this parable is a Jewish wedding.
- A Jewish wedding was unlike anything most of us have experienced.
- Most marriages were arranged by the parents.
- A betrothal party would make the arrangement official.
- The wedding is planned but the exact date might not be known.
- The bride would be advised when the time approached and so she had to get herself ready.
- Then she would wait for the bridegroom to come get her.
- What complicates this parable is the bride is not mentioned.
- Is the bridegroom coming to get the bride or is he bringing her to his home for the wedding ceremony?
- Whenever studying and interpreting parables we must look for the one thing it is trying to communicate.
- Trying to force all the details to make sense can distract away from that.

- Every parable is trying to make one point – look for that!
- **Matthew 25:2-13**
- The main message of this parable is that Jesus is coming back, and we don't know when that will be.
- As pre-Rapture believers, the message is to be wise, and be alert.
- It has been almost two-thousand years since Jesus said this and some people are spiritually drifting off to sleep.
- We must regularly remind ourselves and each other that Jesus is coming back, and it might be soon.
- No matter how long it takes for Him to come back, we must keep reminding ourselves and others to be spiritually awake to that truth.
- The next parable reminds us of what else we ought to be doing while we watch and wait for Jesus to come back.
- **Matthew 25:14**
- This parable probably applies best to the pre-Rapture church but can also apply to the Tribulation period.
- Jesus is in heaven with the Father but someday He is going to come back.
- Just as with the last parable, we shouldn't try to force meaning upon all the details.
- Many are there for rhetorical purposes.
- For example, many like to interpret the man in this verse to be Christ.
- Notice that the word 'man' is not capitalized.
- In this parable, the man, or lord, or master of the house, is going on a long trip.
- He gives his goods, his possessions and wealth, to his servants to use and work with while he is gone.
- The implied purpose was that they would use those resources to get more wealth for the man while he was gone.
- **Matthew 25:15**
- 'talents' – Approximately 70 pounds.
- This could be gold, silver, or brass.
- It was probably silver. It was a lot of money.
- The man distributed his goods based on the ability of the servant.

- The Equity part of DEI would object to this.
- **Matthew 25:16**
- That is a 100% increase. That's good!
- **Matthew 25:17**
- That also is a 100% increase.
- Humanly speaking, we would say that the first one did better because he earned 2 ½ times as much as the second one.
- **Matthew 25:18**
- That is a 0% increase. Humanly speaking, at least he didn't lose it.
- Our liberal culture would probably demand he get a participation trophy for that.
- The master of the house has a different view.
- **Matthew 25:19-21**
- The lord is pleased with his performance.
- He gives the servant more responsibility and invites him to celebrate with him.
- **Matthew 25:22-23**
- The two-talent servant receives the same reward as the five-talent servant, even though the five-talent servant earned two and a half times as much.
- **Matthew 25:24-25**
- He makes an excuse for not being as productive as the other two servants.
- If he actually had been afraid of the master, he would have put his money in the bank.
- This is just an excuse to try to get out of the trouble he is in.
- The first servant was given five talents because he was able to work with five talents and earn five more.
- The second servant was given two talents because he was able to work with two talents and earn two more.
- The third servant was given one talent because he was able to work with one talent and earn one more.
- Instead, he chose not to risk it.
- The lord of the house is not pleased.

- **Matthew 25:26-28**

- The servant had been unfaithful.
- He made excuses but there was no excuse.

- **Matthew 25:29**

- This is a call to faithfulness.
- When we stand before God, everything we have done in this life will be examined (**1 Corinthians 3:13-15**).

...each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- Faithfulness will be the test of what is burned up versus what passes through the fire of God's examination.
- Were you faithful to use what God gave you to serve Him in the opportunities He put before you?
- God has chosen to use people to accomplish His will on this earth.
- He then equips them with practical abilities and spiritual gifts that enable them to serve Him.
- He then places them where those abilities and gifts are needed to glorify God and bless people.
- Some are like the five-talent servant, receiving more than others.
- Some are more average like the two-talent servant who still is expected to serve God where he has placed them with whatever He gives them to work with.
- And the most common are probably like the one-talent servant, receiving something they can use to serve God.
- The results of each of God's servants is going to be different based on countless factors, but God's expectation is exactly the same – be faithful! The reward will be based on faithfulness – doing what God wants.
- Jesus closes this parable with a terrible warning about what happens to those who are unfaithful.
- **Matthew 25:30**
- Everyone on earth was created by God with His image and for the purpose of worshipping, loving, and serving God.

- Turn to (**Romans 12**).
- There is no excuse anyone will be able to give for refusing to do that.
- The one-talent servant was given what he needed to serve the lord of the house.
- He refused to do it and then made excuses, even blaming the lord of the house.
- **Romans 1:18-21**
- God has given every person what they need to serve Him.
- Our service begins by humbling ourselves to His authority and receiving the gift of salvation and forgiveness of sins.
- Most will bury that gift and make excuses for not being saved.
- That makes them unprofitable servants and unworthy of the master's care.
- The destiny of those unworthy servants is eternal separation from the Master.
- The grace of God is amazing.
- An unworthy servant can repent and be forgiven.
- But there is an expiration date on God's gracious offer of salvation.
- You must accept salvation in this life and before Jesus comes back.
- The message of these two parables is simply – be watchful and be faithful.
- If you are a true believer, you don't need to concern yourself about being sent into the outer darkness of weeping and gnashing teeth.
- Instead, we are focused on loving God. Jesus said this when asked what the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) was.
- The most important thing you can do with your life is to love God with your whole being and second, love others as you do yourself.
- Do you love God?
- Does it fill your heart with joy that your Savior Jesus is coming back for you?
- Are you excited about His coming and looking forward to it more than anything else in your life?
- How do we show God and Jesus how much we love them?

- In Matthew 22, Jesus put loving God and loving others on the same level.
 - We show God how much we love Him by loving our neighbor, those people God has placed around us.
 - God has equipped each of us with experiences, abilities, and spiritual gifts for the purpose of loving Him and loving others.
 - In the first parable we were exhorted to be watchful.
 - Stay alert to the fact that Jesus will be coming back, maybe very soon.
 - Don't allow apathy or discouragement to dull our passion to be with Jesus.
 - The second parable called us to be faithful.
 - Use whatever God has given you as well as you are able.
 - Don't worry about what others are or are not doing – you serve God to the best of your ability with what He has given you for that purpose.
 - Here is something you should spend some time with this week.
- What would you do if you knew Jesus was coming back tomorrow?**
- We don't know when He will come back, but shouldn't we be doing those things if we thought He was.
 - Be watchful and be faithful – Jesus is coming back!
 - **Pray!**