

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Red Bud, Illinois

### Adult Bible Class: "What Will the End of the World Be Like?"

#### II. New Testament Passages

##### A. Matthew 24 and 25 (*continued*)

Verses 1-13: The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Purpose: Preparedness for Jesus' Return (Every generation of the Christian Church has believed that it is living in the last days)

**v. 13: Do what?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Why?** \_\_\_\_\_

"Jesus warns that many invited to share in the eternal joy of His kingdom will miss out by failing to have a living faith at the end. Though some will be condemned for heinous crimes and gross sins, many more will fail to enter heaven because they neglected their faith. Even so, no matter how depleted our faith is, Jesus' grace can fill us to overflowing with a single word" (Lutheran Study Bible, page 1638). "Jesus' primary purpose in telling (this parable) was not to give His disciples a further description of the last things, but to strengthen and purify their hope and to renew His call to watchfulness" (Ridderbos, page 456).

Verses 14-30: The Parable of the Talents

Purpose: Increasing Interest on Jesus' Investment in Us Until His Return

"This parable does not merely make the moral point that every person must put his gifts to work. Its meaning rather is specifically religious and eschatological: everyone must live in full awareness that he will be called to account when the kingdom comes. Jesus calls His listeners here to prepare for that coming. In this parable, however, He puts more emphasis than in the previous one on the connection between looking toward the future and moral living in the present" (Ridderbos, page 460).

A talent was first a measure of weight (75 pounds), then a unit of money (expensive) and then a description of ability.

**What has our Master given to us to use for His good while He is away?**

**Individually:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Collectively:** \_\_\_\_\_ ("This little gospel light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine; hide it under a \_\_\_\_\_, no! I'm gonna let it shine.")

**v. 24: Whom does the servant blame for not using what had been given to him?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does this compare to the excuses people give for not attending worship?**

v. 30: The Master orders harsh punishment upon sinful unbelief and the rejection of His grace.

"Our relationship to God and the world is one of stewardship. We are to use everything entrusted to us in such a way that it benefits God's kingdom. Though modern people often have far more material and technological means than any previous generation, they often use these tools selfishly. An unfulfilling promise attaches to faithful stewardship: if we use the things entrusted to us for God and His purposes, we will be blessed here and in heaven" (Lutheran Study Bible, page 1639).

Verses 31-46: The Completion of Judgment

"The merciful will find mercy in the judgment, as Jesus had promised—and mercy it is; for the Judge buries all their failures in forgiving silence and remembers only their deeds of mercy. The unmerciful

have committed themselves to the unmerciful enemy of God and share his doom, that eternal fire (v. 41) which God did not design for human beings” (Concordia Self-Study Bible, page 1487).

Verses 31-33: Introduction

**“Son of Man”= \_\_\_\_\_ What describes His coming? \_\_\_\_\_**

*Matthew 6:27 “For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father’s glory with his angels”*

*Matthew 24:31 “And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call and they will gather His elect”*

This builds upon Daniel 7:13-14 except there the Son of Man did not sit on a throne. This completes the purpose of His first coming.

v. 32: “All nations”- This judgment is universal in scope for by then the gospel will have been preached to all nations (24:14). There is no description of the actual judgment here. That has already happened.

This is the completion and acknowledgement of that judgment.

**Sheep** = \_\_\_\_\_ They are gentle and obedient animals. In the ancient world the right hand was regularly associated with privilege and honor.

**Goats** = \_\_\_\_\_ They are temperamental and obstinate animals (Lev. 16 scapegoat)

Hendricksen- The Necessity of This Judgment:

1) The survivors—that is, those individuals still living on earth when Jesus returns—have not yet been assigned either to heaven or to hell. They at least must still be judged;

2) The degree, or measure of weal or woe which anyone will receive in soul and body throughout eternity has not yet been designated. Up to the moment of the final judgment all those who have died have been in heaven or hell with respect to their souls only;

3) The righteousness of God must be publicly displayed, that He may be glorified; and

4) The righteousness of Christ and the honor of His people must be publicly vindicated. All men must see Him whom they have pierced. They must behold Him in His glory—with His people “on His right hand.” (Hendricksen, page 887)

Verses 34-40: The Sheep

Rewards in the kingdom of heaven are given to those who serve without thought of reward. There is no hint of merit here, for God gives to His people out of His grace, not out of any sense of indebtedness to us.

**v. 34: Who is the King?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does He first describe those who are on His right?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are they to take?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What has to happen for a person to get an inheritance?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who has died for us to get this inheritance?** \_\_\_\_\_

**How does the King describe this inheritance?** \_\_\_\_\_

“This story does not teach that people are justified before God on the basis of works. The sheep receive their blessing and inheritance from the Father before a single word about their good works is spoken. Scripture teaches that people do good works in God’s sight only after they have come to faith and been justified by Christ. Good works are the result of salvation, not its cause” (Lutheran Study Bible, page 1640).