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DAY THIRTY-TWO

BE READY

Matthew 24:23-25:12

Our spiritual readiness is impacted by several things. What is the condition of our faith? How much do we value what God has to say about our lives and our future? How willing am I to prioritize my life based upon God's value system?

the winter or on a Sabbath; for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would be saved; but for the sake of the chosen ones those days will be cut short.”

“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Behold, here is the Christ,’ or ‘There He is,’ do not believe him. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones of God. I have told you in advance. If they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or, ‘Watch, He is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe them.

“For just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes across to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. He will send His angels with a great trumpet sound and they will gather His chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.”

“Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender, and shoots out its leaves, you know that summer is near. Even so you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away. But that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

“For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not understand until the flood came and took them all away. So shall the coming of the Son of Man be. There shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.

“But be sure of this, if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you must be ready too; for the Son of Man

is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

“Who is the faithful and sensible servant his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master finds doing just that when he comes. Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But if that wicked servant says in his heart, ‘My master is not coming for a long time,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants and eat and drink with drunkards; the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect and at an hour which he does not know, and shall cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; there shall be weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

While the Kingdom of Heaven is the most-used analogy in Jesus' teaching, we have focused on "church" and gathering people for spiritual purposes. Jesus (and His apostles) were very focused on the condition of our Kingdom hearts.

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘The bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all the virgins rose, and trimmed their lamps.

“And the unprepared said to the prepared, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you as well; go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding celebration; and the door was shut. Later the other virgins came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’ But he answered and said, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’”

Matthew 25:13-46

A talent of gold or silver would be equivalent to about 66 pounds today, and would have been a great fortune!

“Be on the alert, for you do not know the day or the hour. For it is like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own servants, and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.

“Immediately the one who had received five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. In the same manner the one who had received two talents gained two more. But the one who had been given one talent went away and dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.”

“Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me; see, I have gained five more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.’ The one who had received

God's Son is the King of the earth. His Kingdom is our destination if we have placed our faith in Christ. Eternal life is the prize of the Kingdom. Those who follow Jesus are "priests of God Most High."

the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

"And the one who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed. I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground; see, you have what is yours.' But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I scattered no seed. Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'"

"For to everyone who has more will be given, and he shall have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. Cast out the worthless servant into the outer darkness; where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'

"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, condemned ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angel-demons; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

"Then they will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, 'I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."