



# WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

TEACHING THE WORD. DOING THE WORK. TOUCHING THE WORLD.

## The Parables of Jesus, Part 9

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Wednesday, January 5, 2022

### Opening Summary

Jesus' disciples ask Him three questions about the end of days. He answers them in three parables: the fig tree, the wise and foolish virgins, and the parable of the talents. As you study along with us, in this final lesson of the series, you will discover how to be prepared for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- I. Mat. 24:1-3: Jesus' disciples ask Him three questions.
  - A. Mat. 24:32-33: What is "near?" The answer starts with verse one.
  - B. In Scripture there is the law of double reference.
    1. The speaker talks to the people about the present and future at the same time.
    2. Jesus talks to two groups of people at two different timeframes.
    3. He talks to the Jews and Gentiles of the future.
    4. He talks about the time in which He lived, 37 years later, and the last days.
  - C. Mat. 24:3: These are the three questions the disciples ask Jesus.
    1. When shall these things be? There's going to be mass destruction.
    2. What shall be the sign of thy coming? He's been telling them He's coming.
    3. What shall be the sign of the end of the world?
  - D. One deals with now; one deals with the end; one deals with things you can see.
- II. Mat. 24:4-8: Jesus begins to answer the questions.
  - A. Mat. 24:4: *Take heed* means *pay attention*. *Deceive* means *roam from truth, go astray, err, roam from safety, wander out of the way*.
  - B. Mat. 24:5: The key word in this verse is "many."
  - C. Mat. 24:6: This is not the end. Keep reading.
  - D. Mat. 24:7: Nation means ethnos: red, yellow, black, brown, white. Notice those skin colors represent every property of dirt.
    1. *Famines* means *great lack*.
    2. *Pestilences*: Coronavirus is a pestilence.
  - E. Mat. 24:9: He's talking to the people who asked the question at that time.
    1. This actually happened. All the apostles were martyred except John.
    2. They were hated. They were scattered (James 1:1).
  - F. Mat. 24:10-12: *Offended* means *apostasy or to be in error*. Wickedness will abound. That happened in Jesus' day and it happens at the end.
  - G. Mat. 24:13: *Saved (sozo)* means *healed, delivered, preserved*.
  - H. Mat. 24:14: In the future (our time), the gospel will be preached to every person.
  - I. Mat. 24:15: This refers to mid-tribulation spoken of in the Book of the Revelation.
  - J. Mat. 24:16-19: This happened to some degree in A.D. 70.

1. Mat. 27:24-25: They and their children paid a huge price for what they said.
  2. Your children follow your lead.
  3. Luke 23:29-31: Jesus is telling them what will happen and why.
  4. The USA is in a time of judgment because of long-running sin and rejecting God.
- K. Mat. 24:19-20: He's talking about the end of the Jewish state (Gen. 6:13).
1. There's always a price for rejecting God.
  2. If you continue in sin, judgment will come.
- III. Mat. 24:21: This is not in chronological order.
- A. Mat. 24:22: He shortens those days because of the elect, born again believers.
  - B. Mat. 24:23-27: We're still waiting on the second coming. It will happen so fast, you will not have time to repent.
  - C. Mat. 24:28: Vultures and eagles eat the dead. Many people will die.
  - D. Mat. 24:29-31: This is the last day of the tribulation period.
- IV. Mat. 24:32-33: Jesus continues answering the questions with the parable of the fig tree.
- A. You can see that you're getting closer to the time when all things will be.
  - B. Mat. 24:34: That's the generation at the end.
  - C. Mat. 24:36: He's talking about the second coming.
  - D. Mat. 24:37-39: They were not ready, because they didn't pay attention and didn't see it coming. It'll happen so fast, that they won't have time to repent.
  - E. Mat. 24:40-42: This is not talking about the rapture; it's talking about judgement.
  - F. Mat. 24:43: Underline the word "watched." If you knew someone would break into your house, you wouldn't go to sleep. You would stand guard.
  - G. Mat. 24:44: The key word is "ready".
  - H. Mat. 24:45: Key words are "faithful, wise, and servant". This is revealed in chapter 25.
  - I. Mat. 24:46: Underline "doing." It means active.
  - J. Mat. 24:47-51: This is how God describes an evil servant.
- V. Mat. 25:1: Jesus continues answering the three questions.
- A. *Virgins* means that *they all start out the same, as humans in the earth*.
  - B. *Lamps* represent *the Word*. Everyone has an opportunity to hold forth the Word.
  - C. Mat. 25:2-3-6: Your faith causes the Word to give you revelation.
  - D. The key is whether you are ready when He calls you; when He returns, etc.
  - E. Mat. 25:9-10: Those that were ready went with the bridegroom.
  - F. Mat. 25:11-13: This is like the time the Lord shut the door of the ark (Gen. 7:16).
- VI. Mat. 25:14: He continues answering the questions with the parable of the talents.
- A. They are his own servants.
    1. *Goods* are *the tools needed for their assignments*.
    2. Someone who didn't do *their assignment* will scarcely get in.
    3. The Private doesn't decide their own assignment.
  - B. Mat. 25:15: "*Several ability*" is what God enabled them to do.

- C. Mat. 25:16-17: He is using his ability to grow his master's kingdom.
- D. Mat. 25:18: Everything is touched by money.
  - 1. All abilities come from the Lord to bring attention to the gospel.
  - 2. Mat. 25:19-21: You will give an account for your assignment.
  - 3. Mat. 25:22-23: God rewards you based on His assignment for you.
  - 4. The standard is fulfilling your assignment, not the size of your reach.
- E. Mat. 25:24-26: The wicked man didn't use his ability to grow his lord's money.
- F. Mat. 25:27: Giving money is the bare minimum.
- G. Mat. 25:28: That's the socialistic way (Mat. 13:18, Mark 4:14-20, Luke 8:11).
- H. Mat. 25:29-30: See Luke 19:24.

- VII. Mat. 25:31-33: This is about judgement. Jesus is the one who passes judgement.
  - A. Mat. 25:34-35: If you did it to His brothers, you did it to Him (Acts 9:4-5).
    - 1. Eph. 1:22-23: "I" refers to Christians (believers).
    - 2. Jesus is the head and believers are the body. The head and body are one.
  - B. Mat. 25:35-36: Christians suffer persecution worldwide.
  - C. Mat. 25:37: When you are connected to Jesus you are the righteous.
  - D. Mat. 25:38-40: All these things happened to the disciples too.
  - E. He's talking about physical Israel (the Jews) and Christians (1 Pet. 2:9).
  - F. Mat. 25:41-46: The non-righteous were those who treated the two groups badly.

VIII. Compare Mat. 24 and 25 to Mat. 13:18, Mark 4:14-20, and Luke 8:11.

IX. Israel paid a huge price, in that Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70. Jerusalem didn't come back until 1948.

### **Closing Summary**

When Jesus' disciples asked Him about His return, He answered them in the parables set forth in this teaching. It is vital that you pay close attention to the time in which we live, that you watch for His return, that you be ready by being faithful to the assignment God gave you for your life, and that you treat God's people, Jews and Christians of all ethnicities, with love. In so doing, you'll be ready when Jesus appears.