

Lecture 27 – Jesus’ Prophecy in Matthew 24; Passover Night in Matt. 26

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

Key Terms

Judgment, parables, eternity, Last Supper

Objectives

- *To analyze the parallels in the three parables of Matt. 24:42-25:46
- *To list reasons for Jesus’ trial and crucifixion

Lead Questions

- *What is Jesus’ teaching regarding how we should view His return?
- *What is His teaching regarding eternity?

Final Teachings: Matthew 24-25

IV. Three Parables about the Last Day and Living in Its Light (Matt. 24:42-25:46) (cont.)

- A. Thief in the night (24:43-44). Therefore be ready.
- B. The faithful servant (24:45-51). Be ready, and reap a reward.
- C. The ten virgins (25:1-13). Be ready, even though the master delays.
- D. The talents (25:14-30) While you wait, work to improve your master’s kingdom.
 1. The value of a talent, then and now
 2. Varying gifts and fruit
 3. Identical four-fold praise (automotive analogy)
 4. The failure and the four-fold condemnation
 5. Review: one theme with three variations

Scripture teaches we will be judged by our works. What is meant by this judgment? What are the three characteristics of these works mentioned in the lecture? How do we reconcile this teaching with the doctrine of justification by faith of Ephesians 2:8-9?

V. The Last Day and the Character of Eternity

- A. Sheep and goats
- B. Judgment based on works?
 1. The consistent testimony of Scripture
 2. Incidental, unpremeditated acts best reveal the condition of the heart.
 3. The coherence of judgment of our works and the idea of justification by faith
- C. Teaching on eternity
 1. The relative silence of Bible on blessings of heaven, torment of hell (1 Cor. 2:9).
 2. Paradoxical imagery: feasts and stomach; work and rest
 3. Our questions: pears and volleyball

Passover Night: Jesus’ Last Night with Disciples (Matthew 26)

I. Introduction

Principle: We like or need to learn the whole truth about our friends. The disciples had to learn that the teacher is the redeemer; that the Messianic King is a priest.

Why? Reasons for the Trial and Crucifixion

Why does Jesus insist that He will be crucified? Why the most painful and humiliating death devised? Why a death that Jews considered a sign of curse from God?

A. Because Jesus threatened Jewish leaders, Matt. 26:3-5, Mark 14:1-2, John 11.

1. Winning the affection of the people (Matt 26:5, John 11:48-49).
2. Conflicts with religious leaders who thought He was a false prophet, lawbreaker, and blasphemer (Luke 5:21, John 10:33, Matt. 26:65).
3. Threatening authority of religious leaders in cleaning out the temple.
4. Seemingly capable of leading a revolt, throwing nation into upheaval (John 11:45-53).

B. Because Jesus had to atone for the sins of His people

Represented by the woman who anoints Jesus with expensive perfume (26:6-13). She loved Jesus, but love alone cannot cover her sin.

C. Judas: Because He did not fulfill expectations of Jews. This may explain Judas' betrayal, which people have tried to comprehend in several many ways:

1. Greed. Thirty pieces of silver are worth nearly 1/3 of a year's wages.
2. Disappointment or desire to force action. Iscariot may be derived from sicarii, "dagger-men," insurrectionists. Judas disappointed in Jesus' inaction? Hoping to force Him to act by arranging His arrest?
3. Not merely misguided. He went out to betray Jesus, at night (John 13). He is the son of perdition, whom Satan entered (Luke 22:3, John 13:26-30), cursed and damned by God (Matt. 27:3-5 with 2 Cor. 7:10, John 17:12). Compare Acts 1:15-20 with Psalm 69.
4. A mystery. How could Judas betray Jesus? How can any creature betray the Almighty?
5. Yet part of the eternal plan (Acts 2:23), and events leading to cross. By leading the authorities to Jesus, Judas set all in motion (Luke 22:6, Matt. 26:14-16, Mark 14:10-11).

Explain Jesus' response to the disciples (Matt. 26:11) in light of His earlier teaching (Matt. 19:21) to the rich young ruler. How are the two to be reconciled?

III. Explaining the Cross: The Last Supper

A. Jesus prepared for a meal alone with His disciples

B. The meaning of Passover and the Lord's Supper in the covenant

IV. Contemplating the Cross: Gethsemane

What do the bread and the cup of the Last Supper represent? What is gained from our participation in communion?