

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

As we study Matthew 25 and the kingdom of God, it is easy to see the connection with judgment day. The five wise and five foolish virgins will be judged according to how they prepared. The five talent, two talent and one-talent men were judged according to their participation. Then in the great judgment scene the proclamation is made in regards to what we as servant have done or not done in God's kingdom.

The account of the virgins should teach us to be prepared. In Matthew 25:1-13 we read of these wise and foolish virgins. The difference between the wise and the foolish seems to be preparation. It would be the same as saying the five prepared and the five unprepared. If we are going to be the kind of servant we should be in God's kingdom, we will utilize every opportunity to be ready and stay ready. This is why Matthew summed up this account by saying, "Watch..." (Matthew 25:13). H. Leo Boles in his commentary on Matthew wrote:

"Christians are like the virgins waiting for Christ's return in a long night of uncertainty; of the hour of that event they can know nothing, therefore they must be ready for it at all times. We watch by serving the Lord as faithfully as if he were looking upon us; we watch by being on our guard against every temptation and danger. Watchfulness is a state of readiness. The warning to watch bids us to imitate the five wise virgins and to take warning from the fate of the five foolish ones" (479).

If we are wise we will be preparing for the return of Christ. His return is certain (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). We would we wise to heed the advice of Amos, "...prepare to meet thy God..." (Amos 4:12). Our

preparation will come through our obedience and faithfulness. Are we wise or foolish?

Every individual will determine if they are going to use their talents to participate in the work of the kingdom. There is no such person as one who has "NO TALENTS". I know you can hear individual claim they have no talents, but this is merely an excuse to keep them from working.

In my opinion, the most scathing rebuke found in the scriptures is unleashed against this servant. Christ said, "...Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury" (Matthew 25:26,27).

How would you like to be called "wicked and slothful"? This servant was unfaithful because he wouldn't work. Strange isn't it? Servant that don't want to work! Yet, there are Christians today, who don't work, won't work, or seek ways of getting out of work. As workers it imperative for us to see the urgency of the work in the kingdom of God. Christ said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

One of the most common excuses today to get out of work is, "There is just no one who wants to hear the Gospel anymore". That is not true! The truth is what Christ said, "...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38,39).

The problem with many servants in God's kingdom is we have the "I CAN'T" syndrome. We look at our weaknesses, shortcomings, failures and simply give up. We should be as Paul and say, "I can do all things through

Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). If it was left up to us alone, we probably couldn't accomplish our work. Aren't you thankful that it isn't left up to us? Through Christ (Philippians 4:13) we can accomplish our work.

Christ is going to proclaim whether or not we are righteous or wicked. How you might ask? It will be determined by what we have done in His kingdom. As servants, we know whether or not we are "faithful servants" or "wicked/slothful servants". We know right now!

Servants, who are unfaithful in their obedience, labor, and life, don't have to wonder, "Is my Master pleased"? They know the answer. Servants, who are obedient, hard working, and living a life that brings honor and glory to the Master, don't have to wonder. We can know the Master is pleased! Those servants can be assured, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34).

Judgment day will be a time when our wickedness or faithfulness will be proclaimed. This is why Paul said, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10). Solomon stated, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13,14). What will Christ proclaim about us on that day?

Ronnie Hayes from Vigil

ANNIVERSARY

Joel and Cindy Nelson, 03-09.

BIRTHDAYS

Gary Cole, 03-09; Dave Parish, 03-12.

ILL

Sunday: Jessica and John Cody Carter; Joy and Natalie Parish and Allen Scott.

Wednesday: Lindsey Brown; Millie Robertson.

Steve Brown’s nephew had knee replacement surgery on Monday last week. Dee Adams had outpatient surgery on her shoulder on Thursday and is recuperating at home. Allen Scott continues his therapy at Royal Terrance Rehabilitation Center in Olathe. He resides in Room 320. Helen Franklin was moved to a rehabilitation center in Louisiana last week.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Robin Brown was in Las Vegas on business last Sunday.

MEN’S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men’s Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, March 9, following our AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

GOSPEL MEETING

Our Spring Gospel Meeting with brother Dudley Morton of Peculiar, MO will be held April 6-10, 2008.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 44; Sunday PM, 34; Wednesday PM, 30.

Those To Serve

March 9, 2008

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Brown

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson
SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher
OPENING PRAYER Jared Nelson
PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek
ASSIST..... John Cody Carter
ASSIST..... John James
CLOSING PRAYER..... Steve Brown

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Dodson
CLOSING PRAYER..... Chris Edwards
LORD’S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek

WEDNESDAY 12th

SONG LEADER..... Steve Brown
INVITATION Trent Thrasher

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

Phone: (913) 764-2325

E-mail: olathecoc@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OF CHRIST

515 WEST PARK

P.O. BOX 482

OLATHE, KANSAS 66051

www.kc-cofc.org/olathe.htm

www.oabs.org/olathe.asp