

Welcome to Grace Christian Fellowship

Jesus is Lord! (Romans 10:9)

Topic:

Matthew 24: 45-51
Jesus in his final week:
Wednesday (?):

The parables after the main prophecy:
Parable #1 — The Master returns to settle

- all verses are from the *ESV* unless otherwise stated

1

Context

The Last week of Jesus' life

This is could be Wednesday morning or early afternoon

2

Review of Matthew 24:1-44

Matthew just related Jesus giving the main prophecy about his second coming

In that, the final prophetic event was the gathering of the elect, the chosen, on earth and from one end of the heaven to the other

3

Review of Matthew 24:21-31

Merged with Mark 13:19-27; Luke 21:25-28

The disciples will experience years of persecution. The Jews will be slain and persecuted and dispersed among the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled continuously by Gentiles. The trampling of Jerusalem will stop. Suddenly there will be a **great tribulation** like never before. Then Jesus will shorten that tribulation for the sake of the elect who are still alive. Immediately there will be signs in the sun, moon and stars, they go dark. All the earth will be in fear. All will see the Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven in great power and glory. **He will then send his angels to gather all the elect from all of heaven and earth.**

Great Tribulation? - Yes

Jews rescued? - Yes, trampling of Jerusalem will stop

Resurrection of the elect? - Likely

General resurrection? - No mention of this

Judgment with eternal consequences? - No mention of this

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Daniel 12:1-4

¹ "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a **time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time**. But at that time **your people shall be delivered**, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. ² And **many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life**, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. ⁴ But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

Great Tribulation

+Jews rescued

+General resurrection

+Judgment with eternal consequences

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As we work through the following 3 parables and one prophecy we will look for any reference to a General resurrection and then a Judgment with eternal consequences

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Structure of the rest of the passages

Matthew 26:1

¹ When Jesus **had finished all these sayings**, he said to his disciples, ² “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

So we conclude that the prophecy of the second coming, Matthew 24 and the following 3 parables and one prophecy, are connected and memorable

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The above discourse is followed by three passages that are clearly parables. These are followed by what is sometimes called the parable of “the sheep and the goats” but it has more characteristics of a prophecy (more like Matthew 13, wheat & weeds). This is the final prophecy in the last public discourse of Jesus during his earthly life.

The three parables have much in common as they involve the Son of Man (as the master or bridegroom) settling accounts with the elect who were gathered at the end of the above prophetic message (in Matthew 24:31).

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Matthew 24:42-44

⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the **master of the house** had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let **his house** be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

What follows in the next verse is a parable

HOW do we know?

Prior to verse 43 the main title for Jesus is “Son of Man” but it what follows the title switches to “master” (of the house), bridegroom or nobleman

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Matthew 24:42-44

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What follows in the next verse is a parable

HOW do we know?

Prior to verse 45, Jesus always addresses his disciples as “you” but after verse 45 he references them as “servants” (except in 25:13, the **2nd parable**)

“Watch therefore, for **you** know neither the day nor the hour.”

So what follows next is tied to the previous prophecy and transitions to the following parables

The 3 parables that follow are still concerned with the 2nd coming of Christ, but they now focus on the disciples. **THAT’S YOU!**

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Matthew 24:45-51 [Parable #1]

⁴⁵ “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his **master** will find so doing **when he comes**. ⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But if that wicked servant says to himself, **‘My master is delayed,’** ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰ **the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him** and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹ and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Is this about the second coming of Christ?

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Matthew 24:45-51 [Parable #1]

⁴⁵ “**Who then** is the faithful and wise **servant**, whom his master has **set over his household, to give them their food** at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that **servant** whom his master will **find so doing when he comes**. ⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will **set him over all his possessions**.”

What does “then” mean? (The disciples have been told to be alert)

What was the LAST (previous), prophetic event Jesus mentioned in this discourse (Matthew 24:31)?

Jesus returns and sends his angels to gather the elect from heaven and earth

So who is the servant in this parable?

What is he judged based upon? (Faith? or works?)

How does he behave?

What is the consequence? (Salvation, eternal life? ...)

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Matthew 24:45-51 [Parable #1]

⁴⁸ But if that wicked **servant says** to himself, '**My master is delayed,**' ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰ **the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect** him and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹ and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What does this person call Jesus?
Does this person know about the second coming?
Is this the general judgment on the world?
Is he an obedient and watchful servant?
What is his behavior?
What are the consequences?
Is this an eternal punishment?

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Matthew 24:45-51 [Parable #1]

Jesus asked "**Who** then is ..."
Since all disciples are supposed to be alert and watchful, are we alert and watching for the second coming, being diligent about our commission?

Two choices:

- 1) Faithful and wise servant
 - The master finds so doing when he comes (doing what?)
 - The Master will set him over all his possessions, over his household, to give them their food at the proper time
- 2) Wicked servant
 - Says 'My master is delayed,'
 - Beats his fellow servants and 'parties'
 - Master will come as a surprise and cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites where there will be weeping

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Matthew 24:45-51 [Parable #1]

This could be called
The parable of the master of the house who, after a delay, returns and settles accounts with the servants

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Matthew 24:45-51 [Parable #1]

There is a similar parable in

Luke 12:32-48 (Parable of the master who, after a delay, returns from the wedding feast and settles accounts with the servants)

³⁶ ... be like men who are waiting for their master to come home **from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.** ³⁷ Blessed are those servants whom **the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.** ... ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the **Son of Man** is coming at an hour you do not expect." ... ⁴² And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise **manager**, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? ⁴³ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁴ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

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Matthew 24:45-51 [Parable #1]

There is a similar parable in

Luke 12:32-48 (Parable of the master who, after a delay, returns from the wedding feast and settles accounts with the servants)

⁴⁵ But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, ⁴⁶ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the **unfaithful.** ⁴⁷ And that servant **who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating.** ⁴⁸ **But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.**

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Matthew 24:45-51 [Parable #1]

This parable has four slaves and four outcomes

- 1) Faithful and wise servant
 - The master finds so doing when he comes (doing what?)
 - The Master will set him over all his possessions, over his household, to give them their food at the proper time
- 2) Wicked servant
 - Says 'My master is delayed,'
 - Beats his fellow servants and 'parties'
 - Master will come as a surprise and cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful/hypocrites
- 3) Who know his master's will but did nothing
 - Receives a severe beating
- 4) Who did not know the master's will and so sinned
 - Receives a light punishment

Is this the judgment of the world?

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Matthew 24:45-51 [Parable #1]

Since the servants are judged and granted rewards, what rewards would that be?

Matthew 19:28-29; [Mark 10:28-30]; {Luke 18:26-30}
(June 23)

²⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when **the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.** ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake {of the kingdom of God} [and the gospel], will receive a hundredfold and {in the age to come} will inherit eternal life.

The reward is, among other things, judging others like the 12 tribes of Israel.

So which comes first the settling of accounts with the elect or the judgment of others?

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Summary

In the Olivet Discourse where Jesus prophesies about his second coming moves from discussing the angels gathering of the elect and transitions to giving

The parable of the master of the house who, after a delay, returns and settles accounts with the servants

When Jesus returns he observes what the slaves are doing and settles accounts:

- The wise servants who stay alert and active are given an eternal reward of continuing to feed others. This kind of servant is truly of the elect
- The wicked servants are given an eternal punishment

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Next time ...

Matthew 25:1-13; 14-30 (and parallel in Luke 19:11-27)

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