

Parables of Jesus part 23

Various Scriptures

“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?”-Matthew 24:45

In your opinion, what is the biggest misunderstanding concerning the end times?

* _____ is on their side.

Context: As we continue our study it is important to note where we are in the passion week. Most scholars agree the day and time is _____. Jesus has now departed the temple where the religious leaders challenged his authority and is speaking directly to his disciples about the end times. This parable is a further illustration to Jesus' revelation of the tribulation and His second coming.

● **Parable of the Fig Tree: Matthew 24:32-35**

The parable of the fig tree is one of _____ parables that are repeated in Matthew, Mark and Luke. The fact that it is given to us over and over again should not be viewed as a nuisance but an indication to its readers that this is a **very important subject**. Not only that, but this is a direct answer to the disciples question in Matthew 24:1-3.

Did you know?

The fig tree was a common fruit tree in Israel. It is mentioned many times in the Old Testament, especially as a description of the abundance of the land and an example of agricultural blessing. Fig trees are also used in the Bible as symbols or pictures to drive home a point much like in this text.

Jeremiah 24:1-10; Hosea 9:10

Notice the comparison:

What do you see about the fig tree? (Matthew 24:32)

* _____ branches.

*lots of _____.

*The _____ is near.

What do you see about the end times? (Matthew 24:31)

*Great deception (4-5)

* _____ and rumors of _____ (6-7a)

*Famines and _____ (7b-8)

*Great persecution (9)

*Great apostasy (10)

- *Rise in false _____ (11)
- *lawlessness (12a)
- *lack of _____ (12b)
- *The gospel will be proclaimed to the whole _____ (14)
- *Abomination of desolation: Daniel 9:24-27; This is a reference to the Antichrist who will be a world leader pretending to bring peace to Israel, but halfway through the tribulation he will set himself up as a god in Israel's temple and demand worship. (15-27)
- *Sun will be _____ and the moon will not _____ (29)
- *Then Jesus will return. (30-31)

In other words Jesus was saying, just like when you see the fig tree blooming and you know the summer is coming, so it is when you see "these things" happening, you should know the kingdom of God is coming. Matthew 24:33

How can we be sure these things will happen? (Matthew 24:34-35)

Numbers 23:19; 2Timothy 2:13

As you review this list that Jesus spoke of, can you identify some current examples of these signs that we are seeing today?

● **Parable of the Wise and Wicked Servant: Matthew 24:45-51**

After Jesus explains the signs, the "things" to watch for, he tells them about the day. Matthew 24:36 says concerning that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven nor the Son except the Father alone. People will be living their lives like it is _____ as usual. In light of this he poses a question and parable of a wise and wicked servant.

How does a wise servant carry himself? 1 Peter 5:1-4

*A good steward: *Believer*

- _____ servant.

-Manages the _____ well. Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 6:10

-Provides food to _____ the servants.

In other words, this servant is working and _____ what they are supposed to be _____.

Jesus says in verse 46, "Blessed is that servant whom the master finds doing his job when he comes."

We've all heard stories of those who got caught mishandling their jobs or resources, but have you ever been caught doing your job right? How did it make you feel?

Notice the **blessing** of getting caught doing what is right....verse 47

- Promotion
- Prosperity
- Peace

In contrast, how does a wicked servant carry himself? Psalm 1:4-6

*A bad steward: *Non-Believer*

- Assumes he knows his _____ plans
- _____ others
- _____ lifestyle

This servant was not working or _____ anything his master asked him to _____.

As you reflect on the example of the wicked servant, what are some things you can do to avoid making the same mistakes?

Do you remember the 3 threats to stewardship we learned from Joseph? How can this help you become a wise servant?

Notice the **burden** of getting caught doing what is wrong...verses 50-51

- Destruction
- Demotion
- Damnation

For those who reject God's plan of salvation and refuse to obey His commands to serve Him faithfully there will await an eternity of inconsolable grief and unrelenting torment. This is a description of _____.

What is one thing you have learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

“Being ready is Everything”