

SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



Practical Heavenly Mindedness

SOLID ROCK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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Study Schedule Apr – May 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson Title</u>	<u>Scriptures</u>
4/15/2020	The Last Days Are Here!	Acts 2
4/22/2020	He Will Come Back	John 14:1-27
4/29/2020	Waiting With Hope	Matt. 25:1 -13; 31 – 46
5/6/2020	God's Timing—and Ours	Joel 2:12-32
5/13/2020	The Future of the Human Person	1 Cor. 15:12-28, 35-44, 58
5/20/2020	Investing in Heaven	1 Thess. 4:13—5:11; 2 Thess. 3:6-18
5/27/2020	Going to the Lamb's Wedding	Rev. 7:9-17; 19:1-10; 21:1-9



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This Week's Lesson – April 29, 2020

The End Times:

Practical Heavenly Mindedness

Lesson 3: Waiting With Hope

Matthew 25:1 -13; 31 – 46



3

"What is Christian Eschatology/Last Days?"

Eschatology is the study of what the Bible says is going to happen in the end times.

Last Days— Refers to the period of Grace (after the death, burial & resurrection of Christ) before the final Judgement.

End Times - The series of events – leading up to the Final Judgement.



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Introduction to Mathew 's Gospel

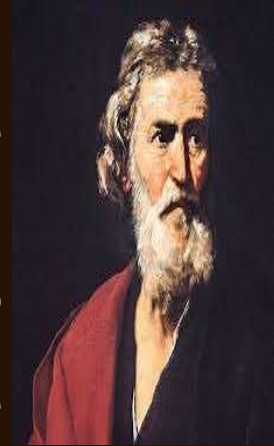
Author: Matthew (Levi) the disciple and former tax collector.

Date of Writing: probably in A.D. 55-65.

Purpose of Writing: Matthew intends to prove to the Jews that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah.

Practical Application:

- Matthew's Gospel is an excellent introduction to the core teachings of Christianity.
- The logical outline style makes it easy to locate discussions of various topics.
- Matthew demonstrates how Christ fulfills OT prophecies.



The Apostle
Matthew



5

Timeline of Events in Matt. 24 - 25

On the Mount of Olives, The Disciples asked, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (24:3)



- Jesus uses Prophecy and Parables to explain the Kingdom and coming Judgment.
- Jesus shows us that there will a Great Tribulation before the Final Judgment.
- The Parables show us that Christians need to be ready for the Coming of the Lord.

The Olivet Discourse



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What Is A Parable?

PARABLE = a story used to illustrate a spiritual lesson or moral (told by Jesus in the Gospels)

7

The Parable of the Ten Virgins



The Wise and Foolish Virgins

- The ten virgins may be bridesmaids assisting the bride to meet the groom...
- This applies to either the coming of Christ for His Church or for the Tribulation saints at the second coming.
- The overall thrust of the parable is that Christ will return without warning and that His people must be ready.

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Matthew 25:1 – 4 (NKJV)

1 “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,

4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.



9

Matthew 25:6-10 (NKJV)

6 “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’

7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

8 And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

9 But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.



10

Matthew 25:11 – 13 (NKJV)

11 “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’

12 But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

13 “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.



11

1. In what ways was the behavior of the wise and foolish virgins similar as they waited for the coming of the groom?

- **Expectation** (vv. 1, 6) – Both the wise and the foolish expected the groom.
- **Preparation** (v.1, 5) – Both had taken their lamps in order make the way.
- **Location** (vv. 1, 6 – 7) – They were both all in the right place and at the right time.



12

1. How were their behaviors different?

- Expectation (vv. 1, 6) – The foolish expected a short wait the expected a long wait.
- Preparation (v.1, 5) – The wise prepared for the future, the foolish for today.
- Location (vv. 1, 6 – 7) – The foolish were at marketplace and the wise were ready when the Groom appeared.



13

2. Both the foolish and the wise wanted a short wait. What evidence do we have that the wise were also ready for a long wait?

Readiness For Jesus/Groom Coming Back:

- They Prepared: bringing extra Oil – if there was going to a delay in the Grooms coming.
- They Persisted: They were sleeping – taking care of natural (and spiritual) business while they are waiting for the Groom to come.



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3. What difference will it make to be ready for a long wait while being ready for the Lord to come immediately?

The New Testament invites Christians to have an eschatology with a long-term futurology:

- Ready for the Lord to come back at any moment.
- Ready to work in this world for another thousand years if necessary.



15

4. What do the terrible words of Jesus—"I don't know you" (v. 12)—tell us about the basis of final judgment?

- Relationship – We will be judged by our personal relationship with/in Christ.
- Repentance/Readiness – The real change in our behavior as the result of our faith in Christ.
- Righteousness – Our works in comparison to God's Holy standards.



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The Parable of the Sheep And the Goats



- In the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, we see man redeemed/saved, and man condemned/lost.
- Good works are not the cause of salvation but the effect of salvation.
- While “goats” can perform acts of kindness, their hearts are not right with God.
- The core message of the Parable of the Sheep and Goats is that God’s people will love others.

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Matthew 25:31-34 (NKJV)

31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:



18



Matthew 25:35 – 39 (NKJV)

35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?

38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

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Matthew 25:40 – 43 (NKJV)

40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

20

Matthew 25:40 – 43 (NKJV)

44 “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

45 Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’

46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”



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5. While another kingdom parable, this one adds the further note of final judgment. Who is present for the judgment?

- **The Angels:** The Heavenly Host that serve the Lord continually.
- **The King** – Jesus once the Saviour/Lawyer is now the Judge.
- **The Nations:**
 - ✓ **The Righteous (Sheep)** – Faithful Believers in Christ – who demonstrated their faith by their works
 - ✓ **The Unrighteous (Goats)** - People who professed Christ, but denied in their works.



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6. On what basis are the sheep and the goats separated? What is the ultimate end of each?

The Basis for the separation: Their works – how they served the least (Poor, Sick, Homeless, In Prison)

The Final Destination/Ultimate End

- The Sheep – The Father's Eternal Heavenly Kingdom – eternal life.
- The Goats - To everlasting punishment – Fiery torment in Hell – receiving the same as the devil and his angels.



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7. What does the surprise of the righteous (v. 39) indicate about the possible motives for the good works they did?

When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' (vv. 39 -40)

- Compassion – genuinely seeking to help those in need (just as Jesus did)
- Motivation – being moved to action by the indwelling prescience of the Holy Spirt
- Dedication - Being willing to serve others without seeking/expecting any reward.



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8. What does the defense of the unrighteous (v. 44) indicate about the deficiency of their faith?

“Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’” (vs. 44)

- Indifference – When did we see ...Literally walking past people in need (It is hard not to see people in need.
- Insensitive - Not having the Spirit - A Saving Presence of the Holy Spirit moves us to act as the hands and feet of Jesus.
- Incredulity (unbelief) Their actions show that they no faith in Christ.



25

9. What practical steps can you take to be ready, like the righteous, for the coming of Jesus – The Son of Man?

- **Live In The Light Of His First Coming. (The Gospel)**
- **Be Discerning. (Study the Word)**
- **Accept The Uncertainties.**
- **Don't Lose Hope. (Prayer)**
- **Encourage One Another. (Attending Church)**
- **Live As If Today Was “The Day”.**
- **Keep On Doing The Work Jesus Left Us To Do.**



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Keys for Living

- We need to continually watch and pray in order to be ready when the Lord Jesus returns - no matter how long it takes.
- With regards to the final Judgement, the motive for our service for Jesus is even more important than the service itself.
- It is quite possible that our greatest rewards from Jesus will come from what was seemingly done for the most insignificant and done without much notice.



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Questions



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