

Introduction: In our text today, we have a parable, a warning and the practical application of His return, how to live and what to look for. If you aren't making the Scriptures practical in your life, how you live, think and plan, you aren't aware of the reality of death or His return.

PT. 1 - The Parable (Vs. 32-33) - Parable is defined as "a *laying along side*". The word comes from the Greek word *parabolē* also indicating "comparison."

- The point here is summer isn't here, but it's near. It is at the door.
- It is put in the hearts of God's people to look and know and seek to see Him.

PT. 2 - The Affirmation Of His Coming (Vs. 34-36)

- This generation (race)* cannot refer to the disciples.
- The world, kingdoms, rulers and societies will pass, but not MY WORD, cf. Psalm 102:25-26. The word of Christ is more sure and steadfast than anything, cf 1 Peter 1:24-25.
- The disciples wanted a set time and Jesus affirms to them and to us today, no one knows. Thus, the reason to be ready.

PT. 3 - The Ignorance And Bliss Of His Return To Most (Vs. 37-44)

- It's not so much the extreme wickedness of Noah's day, but the *preoccupation* with *everyday life*, cf. Genesis 6:5.
- They received the warnings of coming judgment from Noah's preaching, cf. 2 Peter 2:5. The ark itself was a testimony to God's judgement. We have the Scriptures today that testify of who He is and who we are and what is to come.
- As in the days of Noah they were unconcerned about the warnings, and so are folk today. Many think it will won't happen in their life or they are in their prime.
- Example (vs. 40-41) of one taken.

PT. 4A - Illustration Of The Two Servants (Vs. 45-51)

- The evil servant represents an unbeliever who doesn't take seriously the warnings of Scripture.
- Blessed is the one whose Master finds him doing and being obedient. There are two types of folk here, the saved and the unsaved.
- The faithful steward, cf. 1 Corinthians 4:2
- The faithful shepherd, cf. 2 Timothy 2:2
- A faithful steward will be found doing what the master requires. He should be constant in his work.*
- A faithful steward should persevere in his work. We endure because we are His. His message to Thyatira in Revelation 2:25, 1 Timothy 4:16, 6:14

Application/Transition: The good servant will be taken notice of, be blessed to have eternal life and be with God eternally and shall be preferred because he has been faithful. *The greatest danger for us today is to become idle and drifting.* It's easy to drift and not realize how far you are from the shore. I think we should all consider Psalm 51:10-12.

PT. 4B - The Illustration Of The Two Servants (Evil One)

- He wasn't concerned about his master's requirements.
- He assumed his master would never come. Many today live as if they will have tomorrow, cf. James 4:13-16; Proverbs 27:1.
- His true behavior shows forth his heart and life. He associates with the worst of sinners, mistreats fellow true believers and may actually "*speak well in the pulpit but lives ill will outside*" (Matthew Henry).

PT. 5 - Judgement And Accountability

- The master (vs. 48) comes when not expected, cf. 2 Peter 3:4.
- The Scriptures teach every single person will be held accountable.

PT. 6 - The Doom Of The Unbelieving Servant (Vs. 51)

- Cut him in pieces or in two, not literally - Matthew Henry quotes*
- He shall be appointed with the hypocrites, and miserable it shall be, weeping and gnashing to teeth - this speaks of the souls tribulation and anguish.

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Conclusion/Application: We need to consider some eye glaring truths here. There is only two ways, the broad and the narrow. Many do not look nor are concerned for His coming nor the reality of dying. They that choose the world for their portion in this life, will have hell for their portion in the other life. Job 20 deals with the triumph of the wicked as being short, cf. Job 20:27-29. Hell is the proper place for hypocrites, cf. Matthew Henry's comments*, cf. 2 Timothy 3:7. Are you prepared? If He comes at the hands of death or His return? Or are you just concerned with your comfort and life and circumstantial happiness?

*The word when combined with two other Greek words can indicate "*infinity of time*."

Psalms 102:25-26, "Of old You founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. Even they will perish, but You endure; and all of them will wear out like a garment; like clothing You will change them and they will be changed."

1 Peter 1:24-25, "For, all flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word which was preached to you."

Genesis 6:5, "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." **NOTE:** *This is nothing new, cf. Ecclesiastes 1:9. Sin and wickedness and vile thoughts have always existed. The danger is most are just so concerned with mundane everyday activities they don't pay attention to the reality of death or the soon return of Jesus.*

2 Peter 2:5, "And did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly."

1 Thessalonians 5:2, "For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night."

1 Corinthians 4:2, "In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy (faithful)."

2 Timothy 2:2, "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

*When Edwards was persuaded to remit his ministerial labors, he answered, with some resentment, "*What, would you have my Master find me idle?*"

Revelation 2:25, "Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come."

1 Timothy 4:16, "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."

1 Timothy 6:14, "That you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Psalms 51:10-12, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence. And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. And sustain me with a willing spirit."

James 4:13-16, "Come now, you who say, today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit. Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that. But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil."

Proverbs 27:1, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth."

2 Peter 3:4, "Where is the promise of His coming?"

*Matthew Henry quote, "*Send the body to the grave to be a prey for worms, and the soul to hell to be a prey for devils, and there is the sinner cut asunder. The wicked servant divided himself between God and the world, Christ and Belial, his*

*profession and his lusts, justly therefore will he thus be divided.*¹ Brethren, you can't serve both God and something else. You can't be a true obedient follower of Christ and have tethers to this world.

Job 20:27-29, "The heavens will reveal his iniquity, and the earth will rise up against him. The increase of his house will depart; his possessions will flow away in the day of His anger. This is the wicked man's portion from God, even the heritage decreed to him by God."

*Matthew Henry's comment, "*If there be any place in hell hotter than other, as it is likely there is, it will be the allotment of those that have the form, but hate the power of godliness.*"²

2 Timothy 3:7, "Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

¹ https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Mat/Mat_024.cfm

² https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Mat/Mat_024.cfm