

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 44

Lesson 44– Predictions by Christ Continued

Background:

This is the second of two lessons that examine the predictions made by Jesus as He and the disciples were leaving the temple. The passages will look at future events, most of which are yet to come to pass. These passages have often been studied for clues about the timing of the “Second Coming”.

In this section we learn about the example of the fig tree and that the Second Coming is compared to the Days of Noah. Then we see two parables – one about 10 virgins, and the second about servants and bags of gold. Finally we will look at the prophecy about sheep and goats.

Read: [Matthew 24:32-51; 25:1-46](#)

Read the Following Quote

“The Coming is decisive and final. Neither people nor things can ever be the same again. One must decide one’s attitude to it and to Christ before it happens because afterwards it is too late.” [H. L. Ellison](#)

Questions:

Do you think that the author is being dramatic by stating “afterwards it is too late”?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [Matthew 24:32-51](#)

The Lesson From the Fig Tree

1. How does Jesus compare a fig tree to the Second Coming? Do you see signs of the Second Coming today? What do you see?

2. Theologians disagree about what Jesus meant when He said, “this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.” Who do you think Jesus was talking about? Why is verse 35 important for us today?

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The Day and Hour Unknown

3. Who knows when the day and hour of the Second Coming will be? Who does not know? What should we say to anyone who claims that they know?

4. What were things like in the Days of Noah? (verses 37-39) What does Jesus say it will be like when He returns? (verses 40-41) How does that make you feel?

5. How does Jesus say we should prepare if we don't know when He is coming? Describe what you think we can do to prepare today? (verse 42) Explain what you think Jesus meant when He used the illustration about a thief? (verses 43-44)

6. In verse 44 Jesus seems to repeat what He said in verse 42. Why do you think He did that? Do verses 45 and 46 help? In the example that Jesus uses in verses 46-51, what happens to the wicked servant? What do you think that means for a person who is unprepared? Could this happen to a Christian who is not ready?

The Parable of the Ten Virgins [Matthew 25:1-13](#)

7. Read the parable of the Ten Virgins then state it in your own words. What do you think this parable means? Does becoming a follower of Jesus make us ready?

8. Contrast what happens to those who are read compared to those who are not. What important point was Jesus making?

The Parable of the Bags of Gold [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

9. Read the parable of the "Bags of Gold." How does the master treat the servants who invest the bags of money? How does the master treat the servant who buries the bag of gold?

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10. Imagine you are retelling the story to a friend in your own words. What would you say? How would you explain what Jesus meant in this parable?

The Sheep and the Goats [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

11. Describe what happens in verses 31-33 when the Son of Man returns? What is the Son of Man seated on? Why is this important?

12. What does Jesus do with the sheep? What does He say to them? Why does He treat them this way? Why do you think these people ask Him the questions they do in verses 37-39? How would you describe these people?

13. What does Jesus do with the goats? What does He say to them? Why does He treat them this way? Why do you think these people ask Him the questions they do in verse 44? How would you describe these people?

14. The destination of the sheep and the goats is different. Do you think that Jesus really plans to do this? How does that make you feel? What does it make you want to do? In the previous passages we have looked at Jesus has repeatedly suggested that we need to be ready for His coming. Do you see a connection between those passages and this? What is it?

Suggested Prayer:

Heavenly Father we are both sobered and excited by the thought that our Saviour is coming back. We do not want to be unprepared for His coming. Help us to be faithful servants in all we do until He comes. Keep us from sin and keep us watchful and ready. Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Come! We look forward to your coming! In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

For Further Reading:

[The Parable of the Ten Virgins](#)

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