

To survive and overcome this world's tribulations...

We must be Truth-Lovers!

**We've got to truly know Him
and really have His Spirit in us.**

Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple

- Disciples still focused on the external.
- **"Assuredly...not one stone shall be left upon another that shall not be thrown down."**
- PRIMARY POINT: **WATCH OUT THAT NO ONE DECEIVES YOU.** what are some things that deceive people? Ie. love of the world, fine clothing, being first, "temple" that men worship and give their praise to...
 - Recall 23:25 "...inside full of greed..."
 - **Primary, critical, and essential:**

INTERNAL REALITY OF CHRIST

The signs of the times and the end of the age

- ☉ False Christ's
- ☉ Wars and rumors of wars
- ☉ Famine, pestilence, earthquakes = beginnings of sorrow
- ☉ Persecution for Christ's sake, hated by all nations, betrayal
- ☉ Lawlessness, love of many grow cold
- ☉ Gospel of the kingdom preached in all the world
- ☉ In the midst of storms, our faith will not be shaken if there is an internal reality [FAITH] of Christ.
- ☉ The Great Tribulation
- ☉ The Coming of the Son of Man
- ☉ The Parable of the Fig Tree
- ☉ No one knows the Day or Hour
- ☉ God permits tribulations and travesties to test and prove His Truth and Faithfulness in Christ living in His people.

The Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant

- ☞ Blessed are the persons who feed God's people [faithful and wise].
 - This person will rule over all the Lord's goods.
- ☞ The evil servant is the one who does not prepare for the Master's coming.
 - his sin is manifested in the way he treats fellow servants (beats them)
 - gets drunk with the drunkards (unaware of truth and reality but rather de
 - Note the great contrast between feeding and beating and being drunk.

- Instead of doing the work of the Master, choosing to befriend and associate with those who are disillusioned with lies and deception.
- Can you be found faithful? Can you work well without direct supervision? Are we accountable to God only when someone is looking?

Ch.25 – Internal Wisdom and External Faithfulness

The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins

- † Lamps and oil = the Word and the Spirit
- † The Bridegroom was a long time in coming. All slumbered and slept.
- † The foolish ones went to buy when it was time to go into the wedding feast. They did not take the wedding nor the Bridegroom seriously.
- † Why bring a lamp and no backup oil? Why not expect to light the lamp? What did this lack reveal about their inner attitudes?
- † How important it is to be equipped and empowered by oil [the Holy Spirit / God’s love]!!!

The Parable of the Talents

- † Talent ~ \$1000, not ability; commentaries point out that spiritual gifts would be a good way to understand talents.
- † Faithfulness equates to investments that bring a return.
 - occupied with things of the kingdom until the owner returns
 - in order to not be wanting, to possess enough resources for the pleasure of the Master, stewards must be investing into greater and greater returns of the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit is the deposit which guarantees [makes good] His promise of eternal life in Christ. (Eph.1:14)
 - Thus we should and must be investing into spiritual growth.
- † Readiness is seen in the faithful stewardship of what the Master has given us to obtain a profitable return for Him.
- † Note the perspective that the unfaithful steward has of his master... Thoughts and perceptions determine action or lack thereof.
- † What is “lazy”?
- † We can also conclude that God’s gifts are to be dynamically used and not neglectfully static nor stagnant.

The Son of Man will judge the nations

- **BASIS OF JUDGMENT:** treatment of those who are alienated, unprotected, sick, or imprisoned.
- **DISCUSSION:** In our lives, who are the ones alienated, unprotected, sick, or imprisoned? How is it that we could miss showing love to Christ through our treatment of these?
- **TREATMENT = MERCY** (not sacrifice)
 - = evidence of oil
 - = faithful investment
 - = grace and truth

INTERNAL REALITY,

IS IT IN YOU?

When He is in you, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”