

BE READY IN THE RIGHT ORDER! MATTHEW chapters 23 thru 26: (Oxygen mask on plane)

If you were leaving someone you loved for an indefinite period of time, the things you would say to them just before you left would be pretty important. In these chapters Jesus is leaving some VERY important messages to EVERYONE on how we can be “prepared” for life after this life.

Chapter 23:

Humbly flee Hypocrisy. (Only perfect antidote for hypocrisy is the humble confession of it.)

Context: Matthew 22:37-45: #1. LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOU GOT. #2 LOVE OTHERS same as yourself. Verse 44 Jesus used Psalm 110 David’s own words to one last time REFUTE and BEWILDER the ‘status quo religious leaders’. If there is no trinity how did David in a vision hear the words “The Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand till I make Your enemies your footstool” Since no one dared question him anymore, Jesus launched into a final shredding of religiosity and explanation of what it means to be a true follower of HIM who will be prepared to enter ETERNITY.

Hypocrites exposed. (Careful not to be *too hasty* in looking for ‘others’ hypocrisy)

1: Talk a good game but don’t follow through. (Cheap Talk) **2:** Harder on others than themselves. **3:** Want to be seen by men doing “good stuff” **4:** Worship “externals, titles, flattery” **5:** Exalt themselves.

6: EIGHT WOES:

A: Make self feel better by others misery. **B:** Do evil then put on a “show” in LONG prayers” **C:** Go to great lengths to ‘fix’ someone and they end up worse. **D:** Blind fools leading the blind. Worship the “house of God more than God himself” **E:** Major on the ‘minors’ and ignore FAITH and MERCY and JUSTICE. Strain gnat out of drink and swallow a CAMEL. **F:** “Clean on the outside, filthy on the inside” **G:** “Painted on the outside, dead and rotting on the inside” **H:** “Honor your heritage in word only”

Z: True witnesses and prophets will be killed and persecuted by “religious hypocrites”.

Verse 37: Jesus cries over Jerusalem and still wants to bring all under his “safe wings” but they were NOT WILLING☹.

Chapter 24:

Vs 1-2 Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. NOT ONE STONE on top of another.

Vs 4-22 “Signs of second coming and the end of the age”

DECEPTION; WARS and RUMORS of WARS; FAMINE; PESTILENCES (DISEASES); EARTHQUAKES; PERSECUTION OF **ALL** TRUE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS; LAWLESSNESS; GREAT TRIBULATION:

Regardless of which end times “theory” comes to be, there WILL **BE** SUFFERING for our faith.

Abomination of desolation: Half way through a 7 year treaty with Israel, the antichrist breaks the treaty with a very ‘in your face’ act of the highest offense in the temple in Jerusalem. This will be undeniable and recognizable to the followers of Jesus, so when it happens, RUN FOR THE HILLS!!

Vs 23-28: More deception on where Jesus is, do not go because when he does come it will be like “lightening”. People will “take advantage” of the **bad** times to empower themselves. “Never let a good crisis go to waste”

Vs 29-31 “Immediately”: Sun darkened; Moon no light; Stars fall from Heaven; Powers of the heavens (solar system) will be *shaken*; ‘Sign’ of the Son of man will appear and people will mourn AS they SEE the SON OF MAN coming on the CLOUDS of heaven with power and GREAT GLORY. (Mourning is because they know they are not personally ready **or** because they ‘wasted’ opportunities to share God’s love with others); Angels sent to ‘gather the elect’ with great SOUND of the trumpet.

Vs 32-35 Learn from the Fig tree in spring, buds means “summer is coming”. When you see the signs, it is near at your doors!! Heaven and earth will pass away but MY WORDS will **by no means** pass away!

Vs 36-44 Only the Father knows the time; Like days of Noah, “business as usual, focusing on the stuff of this life” Suddenly it was too late; **** Regardless** of the degree of intensity of the “signs” of the times before the Lord’s return many people will be blindly just going about life as usual with the FATAL assumption that things will always be as they have been before******.

Two men in field, one gone; Two women grinding at the mill, one GONE; **WATCH**, be prepared;

Thieves do not send you a ‘notice’ of when they will be robbing your house; “BE READY for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect”.

Vs 45-51: Servant loyal to master has **no fear** when he returns. Evil servant who is not loyal will be cast into “weeping and gnashing of teeth. (HELL)”

Chapter 25:

Vs 1-13 **Wise** virgins were **prepared**. *Foolish* virgins were *not prepared*. Once we die it is too late to be prepared to meet a righteous God without HIS provision. Watch, be prepared, NOW.

Vs 14-30 Talent parable: Largest unit of NT money worth anywhere from \$1,000 to \$30,000.

Master freely **GAVE** the talents. Those who “multiplied” what was given did it from the position of **JOY** that immense wealth was given to them not just “money”. The person who buried the GIFT never actually RECEIVED it. Motivated by FEAR not LOVE.

When we really GET amazing GRACE we cannot help but PRODUCE results for our SAVIOR. Once again the only way we can be “faithful in the little things” is GRACE and God’s power flowing through us.

Vs 31-46 Parable of the Sheep and the Goats: Doing things for others as “unto the LORD” is the LOVE of GOD being shown in tangible ways. Be careful to keep it as UNTO THE LORD, beware of the “ego inflating headlines”. Matthew 6:2-4

Chapter 26:

Vs 1-5: Jesus predicts his crucifixion and “of course” the people he just got done poking so full of holes when they drank water they looked like a sprinkler plotted to kill him.

Vs 6:13 **THE MAIN POINT**

This simple poor woman **demonstrates** what Jesus has just spent three chapters trying to explain to the ‘spiritual’ disciples, and all who heard him.

No pomp, no pretense, no posturing here. She simply broke (no going back) the flask and poured the very expensive Spikenard oil that she most likely was ‘saving’ for her own burial over Jesus’ head.

As if the disciples, especially Judas (the thieving treasurer) had not been listening for the last three chapters they basically say “what a waste”.

Matthew 6:19-21: Tells us that everything we POUR OUT on Jesus **now** are by no means a waste. Pour out everything you have on those whom God leads into your path and your rewards in Heaven will be AMAZING.

But first you cannot give out what you have not received personally yourself. Receive Grace and Mercy then give it away (pour it out).