

Themes In The Gospel Of Matthew

The Judgment

These are the words of our Lord concerning the judgment that is to come. Which many reject, but the Lord put great emphasis on.

I. The Coming Day

Matt. 8:28-34 “And when He had come to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs; they were so exceedingly violent that no one could pass by that road.

29 And behold, they cried out, saying, "What do we have to do with You, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"

30 Now there was at a distance from them a herd of many swine feeding.

31 And the demons began to entreat Him, saying, "If You are going to cast us out, send us into the herd of swine."

32 And He said to them, "Begone!" And they came out, and went into the swine, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the waters.

33 And the herdsmen ran away, and went to the city, and reported everything, including the incident of the demoniacs.

34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they entreated Him to depart from their region.”

A. Appointed Time

vs. **29** “What have we to do with You, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?”

What is the time? NASB footnote – “the appointed time of judgment”

Even the demons recognized that there was a coming day in which they would be tormented.

Many today deny this, but even evil spirits had this right.

2 Pet. 3:3-10 “Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water,

6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.

7 But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.”

History (the flood) and God’s promise show the mockers wrong.

They count God’s patience as a lack of power.

B. No Universal Salvation - Some Will Go To Punishment

The Lord will punish the ungodly.

2 Pet. 2:9,10 “then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

10 and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties”

II. Who Will Be There?

A. Parable of the Tares

Parable Given

Matt. 13:24-30 “He presented another parable to them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field.

25 But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares also among the wheat, and went away.

26 But when the wheat sprang up and bore grain, then the tares became evident also.

27 And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’

28 And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ And the slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’

29 But he said, ‘No; lest while you are gathering up the tares, you may root up the wheat with them.

30 Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.””

Explanation of the Parable

Matt. 13:36-43 “Then He left the multitudes, and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.”

37 And He answered and said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man,

38 and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one;

39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels.

40 Therefore just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.

41 The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness,

42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

1.) The Kingdom of God

a.) In a sense the whole world is his kingdom, He is King of Kings, Lord of Lords, they are under his law whether they recognize it or not.

b.) In another sense the church is his kingdom, His special kingdom, made up of those who acknowledge his rule.

2.) Sons of the Kingdom and Sons of Evil one will be together in the world until the end of time.

3.) We cannot always tell which is which in this world, but will be clear in the end. vs. **29,30**

4.) At harvest (the end of time) the angels will gather all to their proper place. vs. **39**

5.) Sons of Evil go to destruction and fire. vss. **40-42**

6.) Sons of Kingdom go to the Father. vs. **43**

7.) Concl: Out of His kingdom, the world, the angels will gather all souls to their respective places.

B. Parable of the Dragnet

Matt. 13:47-50 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind;

48 and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down, and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away.

49 So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and take out the wicked from among the righteous,

50 and will cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Out of the Kingdom (the whole world) the angels will gather all in. The wicked will go to punishment.

EVERYBODY IN THE WORLD WILL BE GATHERED AND SENT TO THEIR PLACE.

III. Accountability

Matt. 10:11,15 “And into whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it; and abide there until you go away.

12 And as you enter the house, give it your greeting.

13 And if the house is worthy, let your greeting of peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your greeting of peace return to you.

14 And whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake off the dust of your feet.

15 Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.”

Matt. 11:20-24 “Then He began to reproach the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent.

21 Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22 Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment, than for you.

23 And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.

24 Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.”

Matt. 12:38-42 “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."

39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet;

40 for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

41 The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment, and shall condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

42 The Queen of the South shall rise up with this generation at the judgment and shall condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.”

A. All People Of All Times Will Give An Account At The Same Time

- 1.) Those of Capernaum with the Lord was 2,000 years ago.
 - 2.) Those who were in Tyre and Sidon (these extremely wicked cities of the Gentiles).
 - 3.) Those who were in Sodom and Gomorrah with Lot 4,000 years ago.
 - 4.) Queen of Sheba from 3,500 years ago whom traveled to see Solomon will be there.
 - 5.) People of Nineveh from 3,000 years ago who heard Jonah preach will be there.
 - 6.) Your friends, your parents, your children, YOU, ME!
- We will all be there to give an account.

B. Greater Opportunity Brings Greater Responsibility/Accountability

Tyre, Sidon, Sodom and Gomorrah were better in relation to the opportunity that they had than were these Galileans.

So it would be easier for them, does not mean they will be saved, but will not be judged as harshly. You will be accountable for the knowledge that you have.

Jas. 4:17 “To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” (KJV)

“to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.” (NASB)

Gal. 6:10 “Therefore as we have opportunity...”

Responsibility comes with opportunity.

For Christians – this is a warning.

2 Pet. 2:20-22 “For if after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

21 For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment delivered to them.

22 It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT," and, "A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire."

It is worse for these false teachers and their followers who came to knowledge of Christ and rejected or perverted it than for those who never knew, because they (and we) should know better.

IV. Basis Of The Judgment

A. All Deeds

Matt. 16:27 "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and WILL THEN RECOMPENSE EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS."

- 1.) All works, deeds, actions will be accounted for.
- 2.) You will be justified or condemned by what you do.

B. All Words

Matt. 12:36,37 "And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.

37 For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned."

- 1.) You will give an account for what you say.
- 2.) You will be justified or condemned by what you say.

C. The Lord's Standard, Not Ours

Matt. 7:22-23 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"

- 1.) Accountable for what you really did, not what you thought you did.
- 2.) Some will be shocked at the results of their judgment.
- 3.) We must truly do righteously, and not just call on his name but do all in (by the authority) of His name. (**Col. 3:17**)

Ex. What if I said I was now the U.S. Ambassador to Russia and spoke for the President on matter of policy, would what I say by authoritative? NO. Would those who believed in good faith and acted on my words be right? NO. If men will not allow one to usurp the authority of the President and will not accept his followers, then why do men accept those who usurp the authority of Christ and accept those that follow them?

D. How To Pass The Test

Matt. 25:31-46 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

32 And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

34 Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

35 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;

36 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 And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?'

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

40 And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

- 41 Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;
 42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink;
 43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'
 44 Then they themselves also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'
 45 Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that 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 eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Actively do good as Christ did.

Acts 10:38 "You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him."

1 John 3:17,18 "But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth."

Jas. 2:15,16 "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?"

We must assist one another in our needs (physical, emotional, or spiritual) in order to be pleasing.

V. The Time

Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins

Matt. 25:1-13 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom.

2 And five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.

3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,

4 but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.

5 Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep.

6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

7 Then all those virgins rose, and trimmed their lamps.

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

9 But the prudent answered, saying, 'No, there will not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'

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

11 And later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.'

12 But he answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'

13 Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour."

Those who where ready got to go to feast, those who were not ready missed it entirely

You do not know when the judgment is coming so be ready.

Matt. 24:36-39 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

37 For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

38 For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be."

Some claim to know, many book has been written telling you to get ready for it is this year or that, NO ONE KNOWS, SO LIVE LIKE IT COULD BE NOW.

VI. The Punishment

Matt. 7:21,23 "not every one who says Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven...Depart from me..."

Matt. 12:36,37 "...by you words you shall be condemned"

Matt. 13:30 “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up...”

Matt. 13:40-42 “Therefore just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matt. 13:47-50 “So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matt. 25:30 “And cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matt. 25:41,46 “Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;... And these will go away into eternal punishment,..."

VII. The Reward

Matt. 7:21 “Not everyone...will enter, but he who do the will of my Father who is in Heaven,”

Matt. 12:37 “For by your words you shall be justified..”

Matt. 13:30 “...but gather the wheat into my barn.”

Matt. 13:43 “Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”

Matt. 25:10 “And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.”

Matt. 25:21,23 “His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.'”

Matt. 25:34,46 “Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.... but the righteous into eternal life.'”

INV.

Many scoff at the idea of a judgment day, the sneer, making not that 2000 years have passed, and things continue on as they always have.

But the Lord often spoke of it, and warned us to be ready.

Peter tells us that it is surely coming (from history and the character of God)

2 Pet. 3:11-13 “Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells”

We should recognize this and we should act like it is really coming.