

WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014-2015

THEME: COME LET US ADORE CHRIST THE KING IN WORSHIP, PRAYER, AND STEWARDSHIP

Unit III – STEWARDSHIP FOR LIFE

“JESUS CONTINUES HIS TEACHING ON THE STEWARDSHIP OF SERVING OTHERS”



Sunday School Lesson XI – February 15, 2015

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Th.D.

LESSON TEXT:

Matthew 25:31-46

REQUIRED READING:

Matthew 24 – 25; James 2:14-26

MOTTO TEXT:

Matthew 25:40 *“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me .”*

RELIABLE RESOURCES:

Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Libronix Electronic Library; The Outline Bible; Word Search 10; Matthew Commentary by H.A. Ironside

INTRODUCTION

Our lesson in Matthew focuses on Jesus' teachings to His disciples on the importance of serving others and practicing good stewardship. The setting of this lesson theologically has drawn much controversy depending on one's dispensational view. Sometimes because of our theological or dispensational positions, we tend to argue about a lesson and miss the practical message of the Master; that is, the importance of our stewardship and its present help and eternal rewards.

I wish I could share my dispensational views with you here, but I realize that although it might bless many, it will also influence others negatively and we would miss the greater lesson of honoring the Lord by serving others. It is sad that some of our churches have become so heavenly minded that they have become almost earthly worthless. Beloved, any church that puts all of its emphasis on a theological argument and fails to balance their teachings with the practical needs of humanity has missed the total teachings of Christ. This lesson is the ultimate illustration of Christ's full gospel plan for living; a gospel that reaches the heart and the hand, the spirit and the flesh, the sinner and the saint, the Jew and the Gentile!

Anticipating Power-Points:

- **The Seat of Judgment Revealed. Matthew 25:31-33**
- **Those Standing on the Right Hand Rewarded. Matthew 25:34-40**
- **Those Standing on the Left Hand Rejected. Matthew 25:41-46**

OUTLINE

“Jesus Continues His Teaching on the Stewardship of Serving Others”

I. The Seat of Judgment Revealed. Matthew 25:31-33

A. The Judge seated. vs. 31

Beloved, here is the picture of the glorified Son of God seated on His throne of authority and judgment. This will be the scene at the end of “The Tribulation Period” or “Time of Jacob’s Trouble.” (Read Jeremiah 30:5-7; Zephaniah 1:15-18; Matthew 24:21-22). This appearance of Jesus will be at His second advent! This judgment will take place just before He presents His millennial kingdom on earth! According to the Union Gospel Press Bible Expositor and Illuminator, Summer Quarter 2005, page 118, “First will come the rapture, when all living believers will be taken directly into heaven (I Thessalonians 4:13-17).

This will be followed by a time of tribulation on the earth. Many will suffer during that time, but many also will turn to Christ for salvation. At the conclusion of the tribulation, Christ will return to earth. Then will follow the time of judgment described in Matthew 25:31-46, which will determine whether the survivors of the tribulation will enter Christ's earthly kingdom."

B. The judged are separated. vss. 32-33

Here lies the result of those individuals and nations of people who survived the great tribulation on earth. Jesus will separate them as a shepherd separates his herds at day's end. Jewish shepherds were noted for allowing sheep and goats to flock together during the day. They ate on the same fields, but at day's end, they were separated. Sheep need space at night when they retire, but goats will huddle up together to remain warm. Now these sheep nations would be invited to enter Christ's earthly millennial kingdom, but the goat nations or individuals would be separated and not given this privilege. The King always rewards good stewardship. (Read Revelation 20:6).

II. Those Standing on the Right Hand Rewarded. Matthew 25:34-40

A. They are recognized. vss. 34-36

1. They are invited to share the joys of the millennial kingdom which was in the Father's preparation before the foundation of the world. *"Thy kingdom come."* Matthew 6:10a
2. They are identified as those who had practiced the important acts of serving the Lord! Note Jesus said they had done many acts of wonderful service towards Him!

B. They made a request. vss. 37-39

In hearing the invitation and being identified as those who had blessed and served the king in so many acts of benevolence, they were baffled because those things mentioned in verses 34-36, they had done to others. But the king responds to their request by sharing that the acts of kindness and benevolence they performed in the lives of others were a testimony of the righteousness which abided in their own lives. (Read James 2:14-19). Beloved, talk is cheap, but one who has the love of God in them demonstrates their stewardship by their actions!

C. Their reassurance. vs. 40

The King declares that what they did in assisting his brethren (a prophetic picture of the Jewish nation) they had done it unto him. But beyond the Jews, when we in this dispensation practice brotherly kindness to *"the least of these,"* the Lord notes it as being done unto Him! (Read Matthew 10:40-42).

III. Those Standing on the Left Hand Rejected. Matthew 25:41-46

All the good and blessed rewards of the righteous, sheep nations on the right hand of the King shall be the exact opposite for those goat-like persons or nations on His left. They will not receive the blessings and accolades of the King but shall be turned into Hell because of their selfish, evil, unrighteous ways in rejecting the King! The record of stewardship stands on this scriptural truth. Galatians 6:7 tells us, *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."*

CLOSING

Beloved, apart from the prophetic emphasis in this lesson is the greatest emphasis of all. Those who are God's have His nature and will truly follow the teachings and compassionate nature of Jesus Christ, God's Messiah. John wrote in I John 3:16-18, *"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."* Beloved, those who are God's will practice good stewardship by serving others. I ask, "Do you get all you can; can all you get; and sit on the can?" This could be a vital sign that your heart has not been converted by the love of Christ. As one thinks and practices in his lifestyle, so is the stewardship of that individual demonstrated. Remember, "The steps of a good man are ordered by The Lord." I hope you are practicing compassionate excellent stewardship, because one day we will meet the Judge!

Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite, LA

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768

Phone: (504) 486-7876 Email: bible32@bellsouth.net

Website: www.thestudyhour.com

Radio Broadcast: WABL AM (Amite City), Saturday, 3:00 p.m.

TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.



Looking Ahead:

February 22, 2015

Ephesians 6:10-20

You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.

