

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Stories Jesus Told

No 11

Judgment Day.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14-46

The Bible speaks of two forms of judgment for people of our day. There is the day of assessment of The Lord's servants, when they are called to give an account of their stewardship, for what they have done with the resources with which they have been entrusted in their life time. The other judgment is for all mankind, how they have responded in accord with the holiness and righteousness of God, in whose image they have been created. We want to understand just what Jesus taught as it is recorded in this chapter.

First, Jesus is Coming to Assess the Work of His Servants v14-30.

This event is also described in different terms in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.

In this passage Jesus tells us how He will assess our works. In previous parables Jesus has told us about our stewardship. In this parable He tells us how we must give account for what we did for Him with what we were given in life by Him. Notice:

We are endowed according to ability v15.

Have you noticed that other people have opportunities that have not come your way? Well, relax; do not be jealous. God gives His servants responsibilities they can handle.

In life we are stretched to turn to good

account the little we have v16. We think that if only we have what others have, what a good work we could do for the Lord! However this is not realistic. We will only have to account for what we have been given.

Remember Moses:

The LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" And he said, "A staff." Exodus 4:2
It is not so much a matter of what we do with what we have; as what God can do with what we entrust to Him. Little is much with God.

God gives us amazing freedom in our service to him v16. Certainly He will lead us in the way. Certainly there are parameters and constraints to our stewardship. This is so in any authority-responsibility structure, but we ought not to be reluctant to make choices and decisions about how we apply 'our talent'.

These decisions and choices ought to fit comfortably with the endowments and abilities we have been given. Knowing this takes much of the stress out of the career-activity

decisions that we have to make.

Settlement day is coming v19. The Lord who was taken up from them on ascension day . . .
Will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven. Acts 1:11.

Every contract, every assignment has a day when the transaction is completed and accounts are settled. You can be sure of it.

The Master will be satisfied with our little, or our much, five talents, two talents or even 5% interest from a 'bank', if that is in accord with our ability! We are responsible to do as we have been enabled, and to trust Him for the rest. It is His business. His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

Those who do nothing will be treated harshly.

Compare v 25 with Matthew 8:12, 22:13 and 24:51. They will be separated in the kingdom from the blessings of the obedient, and look on in bitterness with regret.

The only other use of this form of words in Matthew is Ch 13 v40&42 where the 'tares' are burned. These represent the servants of the enemy (Matthew 13:24 -43). The burning of the tares corresponds to the judgment of the nations. See 25:41&46 This leads us to:

Second, He is Coming to Judge the Hearts and Lives of all People.

We do not know the day or hour. See Matthew 24:36&44, 25:13 etc.

But when the Son of man comes . . . v31
can be exegetically correctly expanded to read :
"But whenever it is that the Son of Man does come . . ."

This passage continues and completes the answer of Jesus to the disciples' question in Matthew 24:3 concerning the sign of His coming

and the end of the age.

Jesus today is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high upon the mercy seat as the great high priest of God's people. He is yet to come in glory to take His throne of Judgment. This event is also described in Daniel 7:9-14 and Revelation 20:11-15. You should read them again in their context.

Many other things will then be done. The judgment of all people is one of them.

He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead. Acts 17:31.

Jesus consistently presented Himself as the Son of Man. Not only can He sympathise with the weaknesses and limitations of His servants, but all men are to be judged by, not by an unknowable God from Heaven, but rather by 'one of us;' one who has experienced it all, given Himself to serve His generation, then as a ransom for all. The life of Jesus demonstrates and validates the judgment criteria given in this chapter. What He did, we ought to also do.

The emphasis in this passage is on works, not faith. Why? Because sinners are not assessed on the basis of a faith they do not have, but on the nature of the expression of their own thoughts and actions. See Revelation 20:12 & Romans 2:15. All people so assessed are naturally guilty of the transgression of the standard of holiness that is in them by virtue of the true, good and right image of God with which they were created. Violation of this standard is a violation of their conscience. As Paul put it:

The good that I want I do not do, but practice the very evil I do not want Romans 7:19.

It describes the judgment of the Nations

(Nations: Gk *Ethnos* or ethnics - plural, meaning Gentiles, peoples other than Israel.) It is not judgment nation by nation, but Jew will be judged according to the revelation and enlightenment that they have received and the Gentiles in accord with the enlightenment and

knowledge that they have received, person by person. This accords with Paul's teaching in the whole of Romans chapter two. Take time to read it thoughtfully. Key verse:

All who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified. Romans 2:12&13.

The judgment of the Jew will be more rigorous because of his privileges.

How then will the Christian be judged? How can the believer stand on this day. Is he not as guilty of failure as the unbeliever?

Yes he is as guilty as the unbeliever, for the scripture has included all under sin:

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God Romans 3:23.

But the true Christian will not be included in this judgment:

He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:18.

Those who have personally and deliberately put their trust in and confessed the crucified and risen Christ, have received, in exchange for their sin as a gift, the righteousness of Jesus, and are not condemned, but have passed from death to life already. Their judgment fell on Jesus. God now looks upon them as though they had never sinned. Jesus said:

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me (God the Father), has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. John 5:24.

* * * *

"Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord GOD. "Therefore, repent and live." Ezekiel 18:31&32

Bible quotations in this study are from the NASB.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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