



INTRODUCTION

God's kind of future lies with those who help their fellows because they want to, who add the touch of compassion to their goodness.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Matthew 25 includes two parables and a prophecy, all of them emphasizing the Lord's coming in power and judgment after an extended absence. His coming brings with it an accounting and unchangeable separation.

Verses 1-12 tell of a wedding with the attendants awaiting the groom's arrival. That finally happens suddenly without announcement, and finds some of the attendants shut out of the festivities.

Our text presents a dramatic preview of Christ's coming in judgment. We are not told, "The Kingdom is like...but," "When the Son of man shall come in his glory..." Our future depends entirely on our relationship to Him.

THE LESSON

"When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, and the people of all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the righteous people at his right and the others at his left. Then the King will say to the people on his right 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father! Come and possess the Kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me. The righteous will then answer him 'When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?--The King will reply, I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me!' (Matt. 25:31-40)

"The Son of Man" was a term used by Jesus customarily of himself. It bespoke the dual nature of Him who accepted our humanity for a time in order that we might share His glory forever.

Verses 35 and 36 of Chapter 25 (Matt.) offer an amazing statement. The King surrounded with matchless splendor, speaks of having been hungry, thirsty, lonely, ill-clad, and in jail. But as Son of Man, Jesus experienced these trials. The Lord was hungry when he was tempted in the wilderness. He thirsted at Sychar's well and on the cross. He was treated as a stranger by those to whom He came. His clothing was taken from Him at Golgotha. He endured agony and bloody sweat alone in Gethsamane, and from that time until His death, He was a prisoner. At times, His most basic yearnings went unanswered.

Many of the needs mentioned are physical and may seem to have no spiritual importance but by teaching and example, Jesus made them important in fulfilling God's ministry to the whole person.

Ministry to the stranger, the sick, and the prisoner are less material, but no less real. The Christian life toward which these verses point is no mere exercise in avoidance of evil. It is active and affirmative. In most instances it does not demand special training or experience. Yet, the involvement in feeding, clothing, and visiting the needy is accepted at some inconvenience, expense, and perhaps risk to those who engage in it. Hence, it demands love, first to the divine King, and then to all His children.

Revelations 7:15 reads: "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple, and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them." Two factors in the experience stand out: First, is the presence of the King. That is according to Jesus' promise; "I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:23).

The second factor is service to the King. Loving care given to His people in their need is service to Him. If, therefore, we would sing with the Heavenly choir, Happy in the service of the King, our present contracts with the needy ones among His people provide a marvelous opportunity to get into practice.

Dear God, forgive our mistreatment of Your Son through failure to see and serve the needs of others. Amen.

Reprobating A Sinner

By J. M. Little

You will note that after each plague was lifted, Pharaoh's heart was hardened. This evidences that no sinner can turn to the Lord on his own. Did you know that? You cannot turn to the Lord on your own, let alone, any time you want to. If the sovereign God of the universe doesn't give you a desire to be saved, you'll never be saved. Salvation is of the Lord from start to finish. After the last plague, the smiting of the first-born, Pharaoh called for Moses at night and said, "Rise up, and go you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the LORD, as ye have said, and be gone; and bless me also." (Ex. 12:31, 32). It was not until this tenth plague, the killing of all the first-born of Egypt, that Pharaoh would let the Hebrews go. The Lord had declared: "And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt." (Ex. 12:13). The blood on the lintel kept the Hebrews from falling under the judgment that fell on the Egyptians. Friends, the blood of Christ is the only reason the judgment of God will not fall on this sinner. I have nothing on my own to shield me, that is by nature I have no safety at all. My only safety is Christ and His shed blood that covers me. I sit and tremble for you who are trying to be saved by works. You work, and work, and work, but you are never done. Salvation is by blood redemption in Christ. It is the power of Christ that delivers a sinner, and the blood of Christ that cleanses a sinner. On my own, I never would have been saved. By nature I didn't want Christ. By nature I hated Him. Have you ever seen that you have a heart of hatred for God? You will before you are saved.

Every sinner by nature hates God and left on your own you would never come to Christ. Any preacher who tells you that you can be saved any time you want to is a liar and the truth is not in him.

All through the Word of God we see men and women who were reprobated. There was Cain, and that wicked woman, Jezebel, Ahab's wife. Then there was Korah and Dathan who accused Moses of taking too much on himself. Read those stories and weep.

King Herod is another example of a sinner being reprobated under the truth. Those who live under the truth are put to test far more than those who just occasionally come in contact with the truth of the Lord's servants. King Herod gladly heard John the Baptist but Herod refused to repent. John had told him it was unlawful to have his brother Phillip's wife. Right there, Herod was tested, and refusing to repent, the Lord withdrew the influence of John from him. Herod had John imprisoned, and his wife and naked daughter influenced Herod to kill John.

When Herod heard John preach, and refused to repent, right there his heart was hardened, he rejected the truth. But as in the life of every reprobate, there comes a final testing. "But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before him, and pleased Herod. Where upon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her. And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison." (Mt. 14:6-10). This is a sad case of a soul who sat under the truth but rejected the truth. And when the final testing came, at that dance, Herod was completely sealed for destruction. I fear that many here are sealed for destruction. Even in my own family. The Gospel no longer has an influence on you. You have turned your back on the Lord. When you come face to face with the Gospel, you either break in repentance or you are hardened. Some have gone deeper in religion than ever before. I don't know if there is any hope for you or not. Your case may be like Herod's and the day may come when you will cut my head off. But I would not exchange places with you for ten million worlds. The world has nothing to offer me. I have everything in Christ. I would that you knew my Lord. Remember, every sinner is given space to repent. Even Pharaoh and Herod were given space to repent. Before the Lord was crucified. He was brought before Herod who hoped to see some miracle the Lord would do. In the 23rd chapter of Luke we have the story of the Lord before Herod and Herod asked the Lord many questions, what was my Lord's response? "...but He answered him (Herod) nothing." When the Lord becomes silent to you, you are just as good as in Hell already. Herod had already killed the Lord's servant, John. So why should the Lord talk with Herod? He didn't. Herod and his wicked wife and daughter are in Hell today, and John is in Heaven.

You can kill a man other than with a gun or knife. You can kill him with slander, as a young man did to me once. But I'm glad it is true that I showed kindness to that man. I wouldn't be in his place for ten million worlds. Friends, think on your way, how it is with you and the Lord. Do you know Christ? The Prophet's Column is a paid advertisement.

WEST COAST HAIR DESIGNS
 NOW OPEN
 Services Include: Curls, Perms, Cuts, Relaxes, Color, Press & Curl and Treatments
SPECIAL \$30.00 on curls and up
 Owner: DEBRA "DEB" PERRY Licensed Cosmetologist Instructor and Platform Artist for: Summit & Clarif 13 years Experience in California
 632 N. Graham St. (Corner 10th & Graham) **375-3403**

KEITH CLINIC OF CHIROPRACTIC, P.A. EAST
WHIPLASH
 WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT
 Last year there were forty-three people injured in an auto accident every sixty seconds. One of every twelve vehicles on the road was involved in a collision, and a fatality occurred every ten minutes.
 When these startling facts were brought to our attention by a recent report on traffic safety, we at the Keith Chiropractic Clinic felt compelled to share some of the insights Chiropractic has learned about the damaging effects of auto injuries.
 Accident victims frequently suffer from neck and back injuries. Often the symptoms are hidden at first. Later, they may surface in the form of pain, fatigue, numbness, or loss of mobility. Left untreated, they could lead to chronic pain, or worse-permanent disability.
 In many cases, a simple, painless Chiropractic examination "now" is the first line of defense against pain and suffering "later".
Call 568-4195
 5344 Central Ave DR. STEVEN S. ENGLISH
 DR. STEVEN J. CREALESE

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS SHOP THE CHARLOTTE POST ADS

Chez Marjorie, LTD.
 SPRING SALE
 BRIDAL GOWNS REDUCED TO \$150.00 AND \$250.00
 OTHER BRIDAL GOWNS & VEILS 50% OFF
 GROUP FORMALS IN TIME FOR THE PROM FROM \$20.00
 IN STOCK BRIDAL GOWNS AND ORDERABLE BRIDAL AND BRIDEMAIDS GOWNS 20% OFF
 GROUP BRIDAL SHOES & BRAS \$2.50
CHEZ MARJORIE, LTD.
 1531 East Boulevard, Charlotte, N.C.
 1-704-332-7589

HAD AN ACCIDENT?
 SEE US NOW!!
 WE ACCEPT INSURANCE
 CALL TODAY FOR APPOINTMENT
Dr. Dennis L. Watts
 CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIAN
 2501 Beatties Ford Road • Charlotte, North Carolina
393-3333

The Charlotte Post
Don't blow it

 To Advertise or To Subscribe Call **376-0496**

8 DAYS ONLY! **SPRING SALE '88** **8 DAYS ONLY!**
 FAMOUS BRAND SHOES NEW STOCK EVERY DAY
WAREHOUSE r. b. alexander & co. ltd. The ORIGINAL SHOE SALE
FRIDAY Mar. 4 through SATURDAY Mar. 12
 9 am till 6 pm except SUNDAY CLOSED
NEW LOCATION **ACRES OF FREE PARKING!**
 We Believe... The World's Largest Selection of Women's Shoes At the World's Lowest Prices!
OVER 25,000 PAIRS TO CHOOSE FROM!
1401 Freedom Drive
 Across from Graybar Electric 1 Block South of Morehead (Formerly Walnut Ave.)
 Cash, Mastercard, Visa All Sales Final Sorry, No Checks Accepted
 New Spring Fashions!

Public Hearing Scheduled On Community Development Program
 The Mayor and City Council will hold a public hearing on Charlotte's Community Development Program. This hearing will be held to receive comments and suggestions from citizens on community development and housing needs, and the Preliminary Proposed Statement of Community Development Objectives and projected use for the expenditure of \$4,760,000 comprised of FY89 Community Development Block Grant funds, Program Income funds, and Reprogrammed funds.
 All residents and agencies concerned with the Community Development Program are encouraged to attend.
 If you wish to speak at the hearing, notify the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, telephone 336-2247, by noon the day of the hearing. Put your comments in writing so that they will be carefully considered. If you cannot make the hearing, send your comments to the Director, Community Development Department, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center, 600 E. Fourth Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202-2859.
HEARING DATE: Monday, March 14, 1988
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
PLACE: District #3, City Council Meeting Nations Ford Elementary School
 A copy of the Preliminary Proposed Statement of Community Development Objectives and Projected use of Funds is available for your review at the following locations:
 Community Development Department Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
 600 E. Fourth Street
 Office of the City Clerk City Hall
 600 East Trade Street
 Department of Public Service and Information
 City Hall
 600 East Trade Street