

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew<sup>1</sup>

Week 23 ~ Exploring Chapter 24:42 – 25:46

## Personal Study Time:

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(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion next Saturday.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 24:42 – 25:46
- Read 24:42 – 25:46 through twice and then record your reflections and answers to the following questions in your Matthew notebook.
  - This section consists of five parables. The first one is found in Mathew 24:42-44. Summarize the lesson(s) in this parable in a few sentences.
  - Now describe the relationship of this parable to 24:1-41
  - The second parable in this section is very similar to the previous one yet it adds to our understanding in several ways. List the new elements contributed by this parable.
- Re-read the third parable about the ten virgins Matthew 25:1-13. Enumerate the lessons that can be learned from this story.
  - Now read the parable of the talents Matthew 25:14-30. The teaching of this parable adds several elements not present in the story of the virgins. Enumerate those elements, and explain how they help us know how to behave while waiting for the coming of Jesus.
- In many ways, the parable of the sheep and goats (25:31-46) is the climax to the entire sequence found in Matthew 24 and 25. Re-read this parable and then answer the following questions.
  - In what ways do you see this parable as the climax?
  - What does it add to our understanding of what was begun in the first four parables?
  - What is the basis of the judgment in this parable?
  - How does that basis of judgment relate to faith and salvation by grace alone?

## **Application**

- Too often, the approach of some preachers and evangelist has been to get people into the church through hyped-up sermons on the signs of the times. Is that approach a true reflection of Jesus' teaching in Matt 24 & 25? What can you do in your church to create a healthier atmosphere that is based more on solid faith than on trumped-up sensationalism?
- Has the nearness of the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming become a meaningless cliché to you? What evidence do you have for your answer? What specific steps can you take to revitalize your faith in and desire for the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming?
- What abilities and responsibilities (talents) has God given you? How can you better put them to use as you await your Lord?
- In examining your religion, what evidence do you have of a meaningful experience with God? What evidence do you have as to whether you are a sheep or a goat in your family, your job, your church, and your community?

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).