

Chs 24-25 The end of the age OR How to wait for the King's return
[5TH MAJOR TEACHING UNIT]

1. All Authority

AD70 or the end of the world?

- Things that must happen in a generation (24:34)
- The unknown day and hour (24:36)

2. Make Disciples

Applications

- Don't be deceived!
- Don't be alarmed
- Don't fall away
- Be ready!

3. With you

Five Parables about readiness

24:43-44 Parable 1 (the homeowner and the thief in the night)

- Warning – his coming will be a sudden event – so be ready at all times!

24:45-51 Parable 2 (the faithful and wicked servants)

- Warning – a long delay may lead to selfish and faithless behaviour

25:1-13 Parable 3 (the wise and foolish bridesmaids)

- Warning – the unexpectedly long delay may lead to carelessness and lack of preparation

25:14-30 Parable 4 (the talents)

- Warning – don't fail to use whatever the master has given you in his service

25:31-46 Parable 5 (the separation of the sheep and the goats)

A picture of the final judgement

- Jesus will be the judge
- All nations will be judged
- The outcome will be heaven or hell

Key verse = v40: *'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'*

'these brothers of mine' are disciples of Jesus who do the will of my Father (12:49-50)

= *'the least of these'* (v45)

- *'little ones'* in chapter 18
- *'one of these little ones'* in 10:42

*'Good deeds done to Jesus' followers, even the least of them, are not only work's of compassion and morality, but reflect where people stand in relation to the kingdom and to Jesus himself.'*¹

Be ready by showing active love to Christ's brothers!

Chs 26-28 – The King's Death and Resurrection

Structure

26:1-46 Act 1 - The King must die

26:47-27:10 Act 2 - The King betrayed, despised and denied

27:11-56 Act 3 - The King dies

27:57-28:20 Act 4 - The King lives!

Themes

Through these chapters run two complementary emphases. On the one hand, Jesus goes obediently to a fate which 'must' happen in fulfilment of the Scriptures. The Son of God is willingly carrying out his Father's purpose. There is no sense of his being the unfortunate victim of forces too strong for him; he is in charge. But at the same time there is equal emphasis on the deliberate and responsible actions of those who are determined to do away with him, primarily the Jewish leaders but also the Jewish crowd, and especially the traitor Judas. Thus God's saving design and man's malevolence are here woven together into an immensely powerful drama, which will conclude in chapter 28 with the ultimate triumph of Jesus as the risen Lord of all.

R.T. France; Matthew, Tyndale New Testament Commentary

Structure of the final act

27:57-61 The tomb is occupied – Jesus is dead; the women are silent witnesses

27:62-66 The guard is posted to keep the tomb secure

28:1-10 The tomb is empty – Jesus is alive; the women commissioned to give true testimony

28:11-15 The guard is bribed to give false testimony about the empty tomb

28:16-20 The risen and ruling Jesus commissions his disciples to make disciples of all nations

Themes

(1) Fulfilment

- The words of Jesus

- The words of the prophets concerning his authority

Matt 26:64 → Daniel 7:13-14 → Matt 28:18

Daniel 7:13-14

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

(2) Confrontation

(3) Discipleship

¹ D. A Carson, Matthew, p520