

Last Will and Testament

Lesson Twenty-Two

Matthew 22,25, 26; Mark 12, 14;

Luke 20-22; John 13

1 Corinthians 11

The last week of Jesus' life before His death and resurrection will be studied in this lesson. No miracles are included in this study. Two parables will be discussed. This lesson includes teachings of Jesus on a variety of topics. The institution of the Lord's Supper and other events of Maundy Thursday will be covered.

JESUS' LAST DISCOURSES

Matthew 22

Mark 12

Luke 20

During the last week before the crucifixion of Jesus, He spent much time teaching his disciples and the crowds of people. He spoke on a variety of subjects. The Pharisees were intently looking for a way to have Him killed. The following scene depicts one of the times they try to trap Jesus in his words.

*Then the Pharisees took counsel how they might entangle Him in His talk. They sent out to Him their disciples along with the Herodians saying, "Master, we know that You are true and teach the way of God in truth. Neither do You show partiality. Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" **1** But Jesus perceived their wickedness and said, "Why do you tempt Me, you hypocrites? Show me the tax money." And they brought to him a denarius. He said to them, "Whose is this image and inscription?" They said to Him, "Caesar's." Then He said to them, "Give to Caesar the things which are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they had heard these words, they marveled and left Him and went their way.*

Note that the Herodians were supporters of Herod and therefore supporters of Roman rule in Judea.

What is the basic question the Pharisees ask Jesus? *Should they pay taxes*

The Pharisees felt sure that the answer to this question would be the downfall of Jesus. A "yes" answer would indicate support for the hated Romans, and the popular support Jesus had would vanish. A "no" answer could be reported to the authorities, and Jesus would be pronounced a traitor and executed. The Pharisees thought they had Him this time. They had their eyes trained on this issue of taxes from a purely worldly point of view. Jesus puts the issue in its proper perspective. He separates it entirely from the realm of the kingdom of God.

What is Jesus' answer to the question? What is Caesar's give to Caesar; what is God's give to God

Jesus has a question for the Pharisees. He is used to their "trick" questions. Now He has a question for them that they will not be able to answer. **Read about it in Matthew 22:41-46.** The term "Lord" indicates someone in higher authority than the one who calls him "Lord."

What is the first question to the Pharisees? Whose son is the Christ

What answer do the Pharisees give? David

What is the problem with this answer? If He is David's son, how can He be superior to David

Can the Pharisees come up with a solution to the problem? no

The Jewish people were used to judging people in terms of their wealth. The religious leaders prided themselves on giving a tenth of their income to the temple treasury. Once again, Jesus is not impressed with the "show" of giving some money when the heart of the giver is not sincere and does not trust in the Lord.



Jesus sat across from the treasury and watched how the people cast money into the treasury. Many that were rich cast in much. There came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. 2 And He called His disciples and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, that this poor widow has cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury. For they did give from their abundance to the offerings of God; but she out of her poverty did give all that she had, even her living."

What is the difference between the offerings of the rich and that of the poor widow?

The rich gave out of abundance while the widow gave 100% out of poverty

Who has given more to the Lord? The widow

THE TEN VIRGINS

Matthew 25

The parable of the virgins tells what the second coming of Christ will be like. Those who are prepared will enter into His kingdom with Him. Those who are unprepared will not. **Read Matthew 25:1-10. (Slide 3)**

How many were wise? *five*

How many were foolish? *five*

In what way were the "foolish" foolish? *They did not bring extra oil; they were not prepared*

Does the bridegroom come when expected? *no*

What problem arises for the foolish virgins? *No oil (not enough oil)*

What must they do? *Go buy oil*

Are the foolish virgins ready when the bridegroom finally appears? *no*

Once the foolish virgins get the oil, they try to proceed to the banquet. However, they have missed their opportunity because they were not prepared for the coming of the bridegroom.

"Afterward came also the other virgins saying, **4** 'Lord, lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of Man comes."

Are the foolish virgins allowed in? *no*

What does the last sentence mean? *Be prepared; we do not know when Jesus will come again*

THE SIGNS OF CHRIST'S COMING

Luke 21

Jesus tells us that no one knows when He will return except the Father. His disciples ask Him what the signs will be that the end of time is about to occur. Jesus gives a rather lengthy answer.

Read Luke 21:8-11.

List six things that will occur that are signs of the end of the world.

1.) *false gods* 2.) *wars*

3.) *earthquakes* 4.) *famine*

5.) *pestilence* 6.) *signs in the heavens*

The next verses tell of what will happen to the people who believe in Jesus as their Lord. **Read verses 12-19.**

What will happen? Believers will be persecuted

What will be the result of this persecution? Believers will have opportunities to witness

Why should believers not worry about what to say to defend themselves? God will give them the words

Will families aid the persecution of their relatives? yes

Will people die for their faith? yes

What does verse eighteen mean? You may die, but you will be safe eternally

What does verse nineteen mean? Stand by your beliefs and you will go to heaven

The next verses center on what will happen to Jerusalem. **Read verses 20-24.**

Who will overtake Jerusalem? Gentiles

Jesus next describes signs that will occur in nature. **Read verses 25-28.**

Which things in the heavens will show signs? Sun, moon, and stars

At what will nations be perplexed? Roaring and tossing of the sea

How will Jesus return to earth? In a cloud with power and great glory

At this point Jesus tells His disciples a parable.

And He spoke to them a parable. "Behold the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you see and know that summer is now at hand. So likewise, when you see these things come to pass, you will know that the kingdom of God is at hand. Truly, I say to you, this generation shall not pass away till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away."

What will not pass away? Jesus' words

The term "this generation" may have one of several meanings. The city of Jerusalem was surrounded and destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70. Thus the generation that was living when Jesus said this would still be alive when this happened. Generation

could also refer to the Jewish people as a race. They will continue as a race until the end of time. The last possibility is that the reference is to a generation in the future that will see all of these things during their lifetimes.

Jesus now tells His disciples to be prepared. This is much like the message of the parable of the ten virgins. **Read Luke 21:34-36.**

How will the end "close on you"? unexpectedly (like a trap)

THE DAY OF JUDGMENT

Matthew 25

The previous section dealt with the signs that would indicate that the end of time is near. What will happen when the world does end is the topic of this section.

"When the Son of Man shall come in His glory and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory. Before Him shall be gathered all nations. And He shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left."

What will Jesus do when He returns? Separate the people

Read Matthew 25:34-40.

What are those on His right to do? Take their inheritance

What have those on the right done in their lives? Fed, clothed, visited, took care of when sick – all for Jesus

How had they done all of these things for Jesus? When they did it to believers

Jesus now addresses the group on His left.

"Then shall He say also to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no meat. I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink. I was a stranger and you took Me not in. Naked and you clothed Me not. Sick and in prison and you visited Me not.' Then shall they also answer Him saying, 5 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not minister to You?' Then shall He answer them saying, 'Truly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did it not do it to Me.' And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal."

It seems that the separation of the groups is based on the deeds done or not done. In fact, the deeds are the result of the relationship the people have with Him. The lack of deeds indicates the lack of a relationship with the Lord.

What happens to the group on the left? *Sent to eternal punishment*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Matthew 26; Mark 14;
Luke 22; John 13
1 Corinthians 11

One of the last things Jesus does before His betrayal is to spend time with His disciples celebrating the feast of the Passover. During this meal, Jesus washes the feet of the disciples instructing them to have the attitude of a servant. Jesus also institutes the Lord's Supper as a sacrament to be observed after His departure. It is during this meal that Jesus tells Judas to go and do what he must do. Jesus knows His betrayal is not far off.

Now the feast of unleavened bread drew near, which is called the Passover. Then the chief priests and the scribes and the elders of the people assembled together at the palace of the high priest who was called Caiaphas and consulted that they might take Jesus in a sly way and kill Him. But they said, "Not on the feast day lest there be an uproar among the people." Then Satan entered into Judas, ⁶ surnamed Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And he went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me, if I deliver Him to you?" And when they heard it, they were glad and they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. From that time he sought an opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitudes.



What will the priests give to Judas for his betrayal of Jesus? *Thirty pieces of silver*

Why do they not want to capture Jesus on a feast day or when there are lots of people around? *It might cause an uproar or a riot*

Read Luke 22:7-15 for details of the preparation of the disciples for the Passover meal. (Slide 7)

How will they find the house? *By following the man with the jar of water*

Has Jesus looked forward to this time with His disciples? *yes*

As they were eating, ⁸ Jesus took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them saying, "Take, drink you all of it.

This cup is the new testament in My blood which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me."

What four elements are present in this meal? (Two are visible and two are invisible.)

1.) bread 2.) body

3.) wine 4.) blood

Jesus knows that the time has come for Judas to betray Him. **Read John 13:21-30** to see how this all comes about. **(Slide 9, 10)**

Why is Jesus troubled? A friend is going to betray Him

To whom does Jesus give the bread? Judas

Do any of the others understand the exchange between Jesus and Judas? no

Notice that the Passover meal is the setting for the above events. What happened at the first Passover? The angel of the Lord passed over the houses with the blood of the lamb around the door and spared the firstborn

Why is it appropriate that Jesus should die during the celebration of the Passover? His blood saves us from sin and death like the blood of the lamb saved the firstborn of the Israelites

REVIEW

1. Should the people pay taxes? yes
2. Who are the Herodians? Followers of Herod
3. Who is David's Lord? Jesus
4. Why is the widow's offering so impressive? She gave all she had
5. What happens to the unprepared virgins? They are left out; cannot enter the banquet
6. Who knows when Jesus will return? No one but God the Father
7. What will Jesus do when He returns? Separate the people
8. What happens to each group of people?
 - a. right (sheep) go to heaven
 - b. left (goats) go to eternal punishment
9. Who is the high priest at the time the Jesus' death? Caiaphas
10. What meal is being celebrated when the Lord institutes the Lord's Supper? Passover
11. What four elements are present in our communion "meal"?
 - 1.) bread
 - 2.) body
 - 3.) wine
 - 4.) blood