

“How to Be Ready for the 2nd Coming of the Lord”

Read Matthew 25:31-45

*Mt 25:31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.*

*Mt 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.*

*Mt 25:33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.*

*Mt 25:34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.*

*Mt 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,*

*Mt 25:36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’*

*Mt 25:37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?*

*Mt 25:38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?*

*Mt 25:39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’*

*Mt 25:40 “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’*

*Mt 25:41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

*Mt 25:42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,*

*Mt 25:43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’*

*Mt 25:44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’*

*Mt 25:45 “He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’*

*Mt 25:46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.*

Verse 31 *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.*

*“When the Son of Man comes.”*

3 things =

**FIRST**, - *He will come - in His glory = splendor – brilliance – awesome light.*

*Not as a man – not as a servant – but in His glory -*

When the apostle John was placed on the Island of Patmos, he was able to see a view of the glorified Christ. He wrote in Revelations 1:10, *“On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet. I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me - - - someone “like a son of man,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.*

**SECOND**, - *He will come - all the angels with Him,*

Angels have always been part of God's work - At Jesus' birth - at Jesus' temptation, Matthew 4:11 tells us, "*angels came and attended him*" – and also at the empty tomb.

We read in Matthew 28:2, "*There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.*"

When Jesus was on trial he said, "*Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? (70,000 – 80,000) Matthew 26:53*

Jesus also spoke in Matthew 24:31 "*And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.*"

In Revelation 5:11 John said, "*Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.*" - Millions.

**THIRD** – "*He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory.*"

**Question**, What will happen on that great day?

2 things;

1= Every person who ever lived will stand before Him

2= He will begin separating them – like sheep from goats.

A- The sheep on the right will be blessed and receive an inheritance – the Kingdom.

B- The goats on the left will not be blessed nor received.

Why the difference?

The ones received were ones who fed Jesus – gave Him a drink – took Him into their homes – clothed Him – & visited Him in prison.

- But they said, "*Lord, when did we see you like that?*"
- Jesus responded, "*When you did it for - other people, You did it for me.*"

B- The ones on the left heard Him say – "*depart from me you cursed, into everlasting fire.*"

Why? "*You saw me hungry – thirsty – sick - naked – in prison – and didn't help.*

*You didn't help others – and you didn't help me.*"

Today, we need to understand that God is concerned about the sick – hungry – the homeless - and needy.

It's critically important that the church do all in its power to help others in need.

In Proverbs 14:31 we read, "*He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.*"

We must understand that rewards in the kingdom of heaven are given to those who serve without thought of reward.

The very last words recorded in the Old Testament tell us,

Malachi 3:18 "*And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.*"

We also read in Galatians 6:7 "*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing*

*good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to a all p e o p l e, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

*Jesus said in Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.*

*1 Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*

We've seen pictures of earth from the moon and men returning from space, but one day soon there will be a surprise visit from heaven. Jesus will return and the Great Judge of the universe will separate us one from another and reward us for what we have done.

Paul preached,

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief - - for you are all sons of light and sons of day - - -Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:1 and following.

There is an old hymn titled, "Will Jesus find us watching? Verse 1 "When Jesus comes to reward is servants, whether it be noon or night, Faithful to Him will He find us watching, With our lamps all trimmed and bright?

Chorus, O can we say we are ready, Brother, Ready for the soul's bright home?

Say, will He find you and me still watching, Waiting, waiting when the Lord shall come?