

CHAPTER 17

Do You Know You Are To Be One Of The Sheep?"

Foundational Review

Four sessions ago we studied the Sanctuary, which illustrated the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship for us personally, removing the penalty, the power, and the presence of sin in our lives so that we are enabled to stand before God with confidence by Faith in His ability to do what He has promised.



Three sessions ago we studied the Three Angels' Messages, which illustrated this same Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship as we present it to others, inviting them 1) to worship God, 2) to make a choice to come out of the world's orientation to life and to enter into/abide in God's plan of salvation, and 3) to receive the wonderful consequence of making that choice – everlasting life with our best Friend.

Two sessions ago we began working through the basic, real life applications of this Christian life, to grasp the idea that Seventh-day Adventist Christians (to be the Remnant that they are called to be) must be living this Christian life in the Time of the End. In these last four sessions we are studying what this life will actually will look like.

Two sessions ago we studied Making Disciples, like Abraham made disciples. Last session we studied Being a Witness, like the Wild Man became a witness. This week is an unusual title: Being One of the Sheep. Be sure you read Chapter 17 before working through this study. The discussion we are about to have will be much easier, because some of the questions are asking for ideas directly from the chapter.

Part 1: On the Mount of Olives Matthew 24:1-14

Turn to Matt. 24. In this session we will spend most of our time here.

You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C's (Acts 11:26)
- In a Covenant Grace/Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)
- Accepting/Received From/Faith Son (1 John 4:7)
- Abiding/Growing In/Hope/Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)
- Acting/Becoming Like/Love/Father (2 Peter 1:4)
- Required to choose (Rom. 12:1)
- Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)
- Faith works by Love (Gal. 5:6)
- Gifts of Holy Spirit-internal/external change (Romans 12:2)
- Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)
- Function: Priests and Stewards by Faith (Hebrews 11:6)
 - Priests (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 9:1-6)
 - Stewards (Philippians 2:1-5; Matthew 25:21)
- Unique calling: Seventh-day Adventists (Revelation 12:17)
 - To be the Remnant/painfully human (Isaiah 37:31, 32)
 - To restore the lost teachings (Isaiah 58:12; Jeremiah 31:21)
 - To give 3 Angels' Messages (Revelation 14:6-12)

This is basic Christianity.
(Ephesians 3:14-19)

QUESTION #1:

READ verse 3. On the Mount of Olives that last night, what basic question did the disciples ask Jesus?

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Do you know anyone in the secular world who is asking this question?

QUESTION #2:

What were the first three general answers that Jesus gave them?

a. Matthew 24:4

b. Matthew 24:8

c. Matthew 24:14



QUESTION #3:

What events do the Seventh-day Adventists of your church usually focus on when they start talking about the Time of the End or the Second Coming?

QUESTION #4:

What event is to be the one all-consuming event for the Remnant that truly marks the Second Coming of the Lord? (Matthew 24:14)

ALERT!

The rest of this session is focused on this one point! Jesus' discussion with His disciples does not end here. Jesus has a lot more to say on this topic. Part One was on the signs of the end **and** the most important sign.

Part 2: Watching

Three Groups Who Were Not Watching:
Fill in the blanks directly from Chapter 17.

QUESTION #1:

The Unknowing (Matthew 24:38-39). These people are consumed with I ____.

They don't even know the ev ____ . They don't even know that it's c ____ g.

These people are consumed with life. There is nothing wrong with life.

a. Should we be consumed by it?

b. What event are we to be focused on?

c. What is our mission?

■ Think It Through

Was Jesus involved in life? Did He go to weddings? Did He go to special dinners?

But what was He always focused on?

What should the life of the Remnant be focused on?

QUESTION #2:

The Unwatchful (Matthew 24:43). These people are not paying a_____. They don't know w____ to watch. They don't know the t_____g.

a. Is it enough to just know what event will take place?

b. What else must the Remnant do?

c. Can we know the WHEN – the timing of the event? (Matthew 24:14, 21-29) Be prepared to defend your answer.

d. Which sign did Jesus especially emphasize to tell us WHEN the end will come? Matthew 24:14)

QUESTION #3:

The Unexpectant (Matthew 24:45-47 and 48-51.)

Two Sections: The first group of people expect the Master at any time. They are always r____y. The second group of people do not expect the Master any time soon. They are not r____y. They do not realize the i_____y of His return.

a. Why is this group not ready? What did they say about the coming of the Master? What did they not EXPECT? (Matthew 24:48)

Think It Through

Is it enough to know the Signs of the Times? What three lessons are we to learn from the three groups in Part Two of Jesus' Sermon?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Part 3: the Gospel and the World

Look at Matthew 24:14 again. Notice the two words "world" and "gospel."



QUESTION #1:

The first word – What World?

a. What world are the disciples to witness to? (Acts 1:8) Where do they start? Then go where?

b. What world is the Time of the End Remnant to witness to? Where does it start? And then go where?

REREAD Acts 1:8 in a modern (Hammonds) version. "But you shall be My witnesses both in your home church, and in your local neighborhood and your county, and even out into the whole viewing area of your local television station **and** into the whole world."

c. Where does your witness start? Where does it go from there?

QUESTION #2:

The second word – What Gospel? (in practical terms, three parables)

FIRST PARABLE: Looking at our three words – Know, Watch, Expect – our three virgins are all alike. All three words are operative.

- a. The Ten Virgins know, are watching, and expect the Bridegroom. What's the critical element that's missing for half of them? (Zech 4:6; Ezekiel 37:14)

The Gospel is Spirit-given and Spirit-driven.

Think It Through

What critical information is Jesus teaching in this parable? (John 15:8-10)

If this part is missing, all the knowing and watching and expectancy will be for nothing.

THE SECOND

PARABLE: It is unfortunate that the word "talent" is used, because we think of performance talents or gifts when we hear the word.



- a. Besides money, what did the Master give these three, really?

- b. What will they need to carry out their mission? (See the first parable; the parables build from the first to the third parable.)

Compare the difference in attitude between the first two servants and the third servant. (Compare Hebrews 11:6 with Matthew 25:24-25; see Chapter 9 in the book.)



- c. Do the first two servants believe Hebrews 11:6 about the Master?

- d. What is the reward for loving and trusting the Master in this life and in the life to come? (This answer is critical; to see if you have been paying attention in all of these studies. For help, see Chapter 4)

- e. As a result, what will be missing in the lives of those who "fear" like the third servant? (one word answer from each scripture)

John 15:5 _____

Matthew 7:20 _____

The Gospel is based on Faith vs. Fear and Fruitful vs. Unfruitful.

THOUGHT QUESTION:

What does the Bible mean by the term "fruit?"

Ephesians 2:10 _____

Galatians 5:22-23 _____

THIRD PARABLE: Like the Ten Virgins, the two groups in this parable are remarkable similar in one aspect and so very different in another.

- a. Which group, the sheep or the goats, were surprised that the people in great need represented Jesus? (Matthew 25:37, 44)

- b. Describe the difference in attitude between the sheep and the goats toward those in need.

Goats – *Luke 6:32-34*

Sheep – *Matthew 9:36*

- c. What criteria does Jesus use to separate the Sheep and the Goats? (Matthew 9:36; 25:40)

The Gospel is Others-focused, rather than Self-focused.

THOUGHT QUESTION:

Why did the Sheep help these people? What critical element is missing in the goats?

NOTE: Each of these elements, HOLY SPIRIT, FAITH AND FRUITFUL, and COMPASSION, is critical to the “preaching” of the Gospel to the whole world.

The Time of the End

Matthew 24:14

Now the “preaching” must take some very practical forms, the Who and the How.

QUESTION #1:

Who will deliver this Gospel to the whole world for a witness? (Isaiah 43:10; 44:8, See Chapter 16)

QUESTION #2:

According to the three parables, in what three ways will they do this? (TEST QUESTION)

First Parable

Second Parable

Third Parable

Take Home

Thought Question

Has the “gospel to the whole world” already begun in your part of “Jerusalem?”

Are you part of the body of Christ? (i.e.; Are you a Christian?) If so, what is your part in the “preaching”? (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11)

What are the Three R's that God uses to get us ready to participate? How did we describe them in our Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship? Fill in the blanks. (See Chapters 4-6, 13)

Re _____ (to turn around)
 Rec _____ from
 Re _____ (make alive again)
 Gr _____ in
 Re _____ (create anew)
 Bec _____ like

**3
R's**

Which of these three must we have a part in?

How do we partake of these three Gifts?
 By...

(Romans 1:17; See Chapters 13-14)

