

## Lesson 29: Teaching on His Second Coming

**Objective:** To know that the return of Jesus will be a joy and blessing to *those who use their abilities to the fullest to serve God and others.*

**Background:** Tuesday, Jesus continued His teaching to the people in the Temple. In His teaching, He surprised the crowd by exposing the hypocrisy of the religious leaders (Matthew 23). Knowing it was His last teaching to the Jewish nation, Jesus gave a *final appeal* to the crowd, renewing His offer of salvation and eternal life (John 12:44-50). Late in the afternoon, Jesus went out of the Temple *never again to enter it*. Thus, the three and a half years of His public ministry came to a close.

**Instruction:** Read carefully Matthew 23:37-25:46 as if you were sitting at the Mount of Olives overlooking the city of Jerusalem and listening to Jesus in person.

**Let's Think:** Always read first the verses given at the end of the question.

Matthew 24 & 25 is known as "Olivet discourse" or "Discourse on the last things." The teaching was given in response to the disciples' question concerning two future events. Jesus predicted the destruction of the Temple which literally came to pass in 70 A.D., and His return to earth in power and glory as Judge and Rewarder. The two events are *intertwined* in the discourse. Since then the true believers have been waiting for the return of Jesus, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

**The Second Coming of Jesus** (also called The Parousia, Mt 24:1-14; 36-51).

1. a. What did Jesus predict about the Gospel of the Kingdom, God's rule, which He came to announce? And how will it relate to His return? Explain. (Mt 24:14).  
Have the people in your "small" world heard the Good News? Make a list of those who haven't, and think how they may hear it while it is today.
2. a. Why is it useless, even a sin, to *speculate on the date* of Christ's return? In what way will His return be like the days of Noah and the thief in the night? Explain. (Mt 24:36-44; read also 1Thess. 5:1-2).  
b. How can we be ready for His return as taught in the parable of the wise servant and the wicked servant? (Mt 24:45-51).

**The Parable of Talents** (Mt 25:14-30; Talent, originally, was a measure of money.)

3. What truth does vs. 14, 15 teach about talents? List them. Is there room for *boasting* or *envy* among the believers? Why or why not? (Read I Cor. 4:7).
4. What did the servants do while the master was away? Do you agree with the statement that "a servant is known by his master's absence."? Explain.
5. What praise did the five-talent servant and the two-talent servant *each* receive from the master at his return? Are you surprised? If so, why? Is it *the talents* or *the use of the talents* that really matter with the master (God)? Why?
6. What praise do you think the one-talent servant would have received if he had used his talent to the fullest? Why? What was his excuse? Was it excusable? Why? Is it true "if we don't use it, we lose it"? Could you give an example?
7. Are you ready if Jesus were to return this very day? (Be honest!) What change needs to be made in your life in the light of what you have learned, and how are you going to implement it? Be specific and realistic.

**Let's Remember:** He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much. (Lk. 16: 10a).