

Matthew 24:40-51 Handout

Omega / Matthew 24:40-51

Matthew 24:40-51 ESV

⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. ⁴⁵ “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹ and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

ONE LEFT AND ONE TAKEN

THE RAPTURE

The Rapture is a worldwide event laid out in _____.

Matthew 24:40-41 ESV

⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.

Luke 17:34 ESV

³⁴ I tell you, in that night there will be two in one bed. One will be taken and the other left.

WHO'S LEFT AND WHO'S TAKEN?

1 Thessalonians 4:17 ESV

¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

The word “caught” here is an important one: harpazo.

- It means to “take with”, “take along”, “bring along with”, or “receive.”
- You’re not just simply taken, you are brought along with and _____ into the hands of the Lord.

John 14:3 **ESV**

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Malachi 3:16–18 **ESV**

¹⁶ Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. ¹⁷ “They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸ Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

This text gives us THREE key responses...

1. STAY AWAKE - BE ALERT

It is the persistent pattern of the world to go about your business, explaining the supernatural by natural causes.

- This further reinforces the doctrine of : Total _____.
- Sinners are not looking for God at all.

Many people believe that today, many sinners would follow Jesus if Jesus were amongst us performing the same signs. But I would strongly disagree. Here is why...

Matthew 16:1–3 **ESV**

¹ And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. ² He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ ³ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

By the time that the Lord says this, He had performed hundreds of miracles, all of which testified to His divinity, yet the religious leaders refused to acknowledge Him.

- The Messiah stood right in front of them and they wouldn’t believe.

Jesus prophesied about this:

Matthew 12:39–40 **ESV**

³⁹ But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For just as Jonah was

three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

But that sign didn't convince them either.

These people are asleep spiritually... don't be like them... stay awake and **STAY ALERT.**

Mark 13:35–37 ESV

³⁵ Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

1 Thessalonians 5:6–7 ESV

⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.

Revelation 16:15 ESV

¹⁵ (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”)

Revelation 3:3 ESV

³ Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

This is so important that the Apostle Peter had his own version of this to bring to believers:

2 Peter 2:4–9 ESV

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; ⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷ and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); ⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

2. BE READY

Matthew 24:42 ESV

⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Alertness is like the someone always paying attention to the signs of a threat.

Readiness is knowing that a threat is coming, and making plans to be ready when it occurs.

Matthew 24:43–44 ESV

⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 25:1–13 ESV

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹² But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

3. BE FAITHFUL

Matthew 24:45–51 ESV

⁴⁵ “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. ⁴⁸ But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ ⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, ⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹ and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Jesus here presents a stark analogy of a faithful servant and an _____ servant.

THE FAITHFUL SERVANT

- The faithful servant is a trusted member of the household.

1 Corinthians 4:2 ESV

² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

- Your life, breath, energy, talents, spiritual gifts, money, possessions, jobs... every good thing is to be used for God and our service for His Glory.

The very enemy of good stewardship is _____.

What's your reward for stewarding God's resources well?

- If you can be trusted with the things on Earth, God gives you possession of His stuff in eternity. The Kingdom!

Matthew 25:21 **ESV**

²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

THE EVIL SERVANT

- The evil servant is the _____.

Matthew 24:50–51 **ESV**

⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know ⁵¹ and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?

- Persistent faithfulness is the mark of a Christian... to be at work even when the Master isn't appearing to us.
- To be faithful even when all human eyes are looking at something else.
- To be faithful in thought, word, and deed.

You don't have all the time you think you have. Get right with God today!

Romans 13:11–14 **ESV**

¹¹ Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.