

May 17, 2026

Matthew

- 14 Courage—John Beheaded & Jesus Walks on Water
- 15 Devotion—What DEFILES, Canaanite Woman & Feed 4,000
- 16 Jesus—Peter Declares “You Are the Messiah”
- 17 Glory—Transfiguration & Heals Demon Possessed Boy
- 18 Forgiveness—Greatest in Kingdom & Parables of Wandering Sheep & UNMERCIFUL SERVANT
- 28 Resurrection Commission—Happy Easter
- 19 Eternal Life—Divorce, Children, Rich & the Kingdom
- 20 Grace—Vineyard Workers Parable & BLIND Men SEE
- 21 Authority—Jesus’ Triumphal Entry & Temple
- 22-23 Kings’ Marriage Banquet Parable & Much More
- 24 **ALERT**—Temple Destruction & NO ONE Knows the HOUR
- 25 Active Faith—Parables of Virgins, Bag of Gold, Sheep & Goats
- 26 Atonement—Last Supper & Jesus’ Arrest
- 27 Our Savior—Betrayal & Crucifixion

Christ in the Storm on the Lake of Galilee, 1633
Rembrandt (1606-1669)



The Last Judgment
By Gerard de Jode, ca. 1580-1650
Rotterdam, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen

Matthew 25:31-32

When the Son of Man comes in His glory....
He will separate the people ... as a SHEPHERD
separates the SHEEP from the GOATS.





The Last Judgment with the Separation of Sheep & Goats
By Gerard de Jode after Maarten de Vos, ca. 1580-1650
Rotterdam, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen

Matthew 25

Matthew 24-25 are often called the **Mt. Olivet Discourse**

Matthew 26
Jesus is arrested

24-25: Signs of End of Days & 2nd Coming of Christ

24:1-26 Destruction, Wars, Famine, False Messiahs

24:27-51 Son Coming IN Clouds, **LIKE** Flood of Noah
LIKE a Night Thief & **LIKE** Trusting Master

25:1-13 Parable of Ten Virgins

25:14-30 Parable of the Bags of Gold

25:31-46 Parable of the Sheep & Goats

So **“Be Prepared”** is **3x** in N.T., **3x** in Matt. 24, & **3x** in Matt. 25

Now these parables in chap 25 **ONLY** appear in Matthew

Traditionally PART of the Olivet Discourse, linked to Matt 24

First two on Kingdom of Heaven is **LIKE** – then JUDGMENT



Most of you've seen the movie

Titanic

Have you seen the

Dachshund Version?

Just a little fun before the

End of Time

Today, some are on the

Titanic without a clue

to its **DOOM**

TOTALLY Unprepared &

Short of Lifeboats



Truly BELIEVING
they're
UNSINKABLE!

**Charles H. Spurgeon in a sermon titled:
“The Final Separation” on Matt 25:32**

**Gave an intro recalling Christ’s prophecies, death,
resurrection, appearing to 500, then ASCENSION**

Mark, Luke, Acts record Christ’s ASCENSION

We cannot tell when the hour shall be.

We are told that he will come quickly.

**It seems a long time since that was said ... but we
remember that things which are slow with us**

**may be very quick with the Lord, for one day with the
LORD is as 1,000 years, & 1,000 years as one day.**

**It is not for us to know the times & the seasons;
they remain hidden in the purpose of God.**



**Charles H. Spurgeon
by Alexander Melville
(1834-1892)**



Mark, Luke, Acts record Christ's ASCENSION

Mark 16:19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them,
He was taken up into heaven and
He sat at the right hand of God.

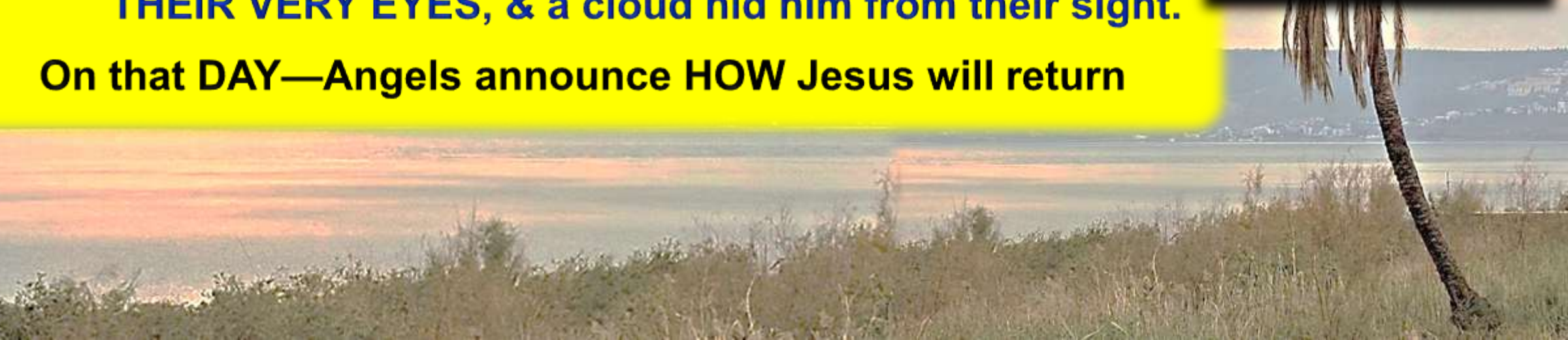
Luke 24:50-51 When He had led them out to the vicinity
of Bethany, He lifted up His hands and blessed them.
While He was blessing them,
He left them & was taken up into heaven.

Acts 1:9-11 After he said this, he was taken up **BEFORE
THEIR VERY EYES**, & a cloud hid him from their sight.

On that **DAY**—Angels announce **HOW** Jesus will return



**Jesus' Ascension by
John Singleton Copley
in *Ascension* (1775)**



Jesus' Ascension
by John Singleton Copley
in *Ascension* (1775)



Mark, Luke, Acts record Christ's ASCENSION

Acts 1:9-11 After he said this, he was taken up **BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES** & a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky **AS HE WAS GOING**, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here **LOOKING INTO THE SKY?**”

This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back in the SAME WAY you have seen Him go into heaven.”**

What an event to see & hear – then be told **He Shall COME BACK just like He LEFT**



Jesus' Ascension by
John Singleton Copley
in *Ascension* (1775)



Matthew 25

25:1-13 Parable of Ten Virgins – Notice the FIRST sentence:

**1 “AT THAT TIME the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
will be LIKE Ten Virgins**

On Mt. Olivet, the Mountain of Olives

Bethany just over the hill,

Jesus’ home away from home

Jesus continues with 3 parables on the Last Days



12th track on Josh Groban's 2003 album *Closer*

HOWEVER, his most famous, "*You Raise Me Up*"

Was composed & first sung by Secret Garden & Brian Kennedy – *NOT successful!*

Groban's version became a big hit, topping charts in 2004 & stayed there for 6 weeks

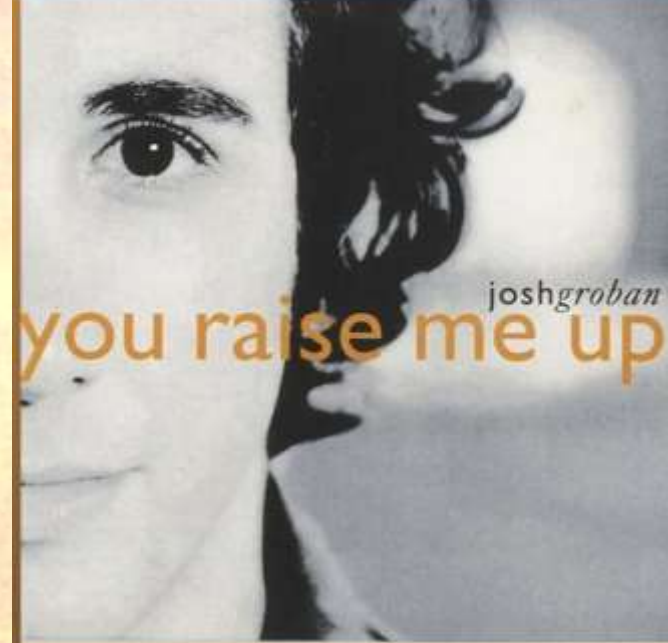
Here is a stupendous rendition by a female virtuoso

I IMAGINE Jesus gave these 3 parables on Mt Olivet,

- ✓ *PERHAPS* one after the other, the Olivet Discourse
- ✓ *PERHAPS* Matthew wrote them after chap 24
but were part of other "chats" Matthew recalled

I like the tradition of SINGLE talk on Mt. Olivet

I imagine it being LONGER, but God saw fit for these



Jesus had His Triumphal Entry, Cleansed the Temple
HEALED countless more – Pharisees want to **KILL**

In Matt 26, Jesus will be ARRESTED – dark days
NOW, on Mt. Olivet, at the HEIGHT of His Glory

For the Disciples, Jesus became their **EVERYTHING**

When I am down, and, oh, my soul so weary

When troubles come and my heart burdened be

Then I am still and wait here in the silence

Until You come & SIT AWHILE WITH ME



Matthew 25

25:1-13 Parable of Ten Virgins – Notice the FIRST sentence:

1 “AT THAT TIME the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN will be LIKE Ten Virgins

What TIME? 3x in Matt 24 PLUS 3x now in Matt 25, yes, 3 more times

“Be Prepared” for the Day of the Lord – now with 10 young girls

“Kingdom of Heaven” appears 68x in 10 N.T. books

basileia = “Kingdom” 77x of root used 163x

4 of 23 variations use over 90% KINGDOM

ouranōn = Heaven 42x of root’s 278x

ouranou = Heaven/Air 92x of root’s 278x

Matt 6:26, 8:20, 13:32, Luke 8:5, 13:19 = “birds of AIR”

HEAVEN is the “air” AND the invisible Dwelling of God

Jews = (1) firmament, (2) starry heavens, (3) “Heaven of Heavens”

Latter, Paul’s 3rd Heaven (1 Cor 12:2-4) where God & Angels LIVE

basileia is root for *basilica*
Roman Public Buildings
of a “KINGLY” Nature

Today “*basilica*” is assigned
by Pope to certain Catholic
churches of distinction

**Charles H. Spurgeon in a sermon titled:
“The Final Separation” on Matt 25:32**

**For excellent reasons these times & seasons are
unrevealed, that we maybe always on the watch-tower,
not knowing at what hour the Lord Jesus may come.**

**To the ungodly world He will come as a thief in the night,
and take them at unawares;**

**but we, brethren, are NOT in DARKNESS that
that day should overtake us as a thief.**

**BEING CHILDREN OF THE DAY, we are taught to be wakeful,
standing in the clear LIGHT, with our loins girt,
... always looking for our Master’s appearing.**

Always are we to be watching, never sleeping.



**Charles H. Spurgeon
by Alexander Melville
(1834-1892)**



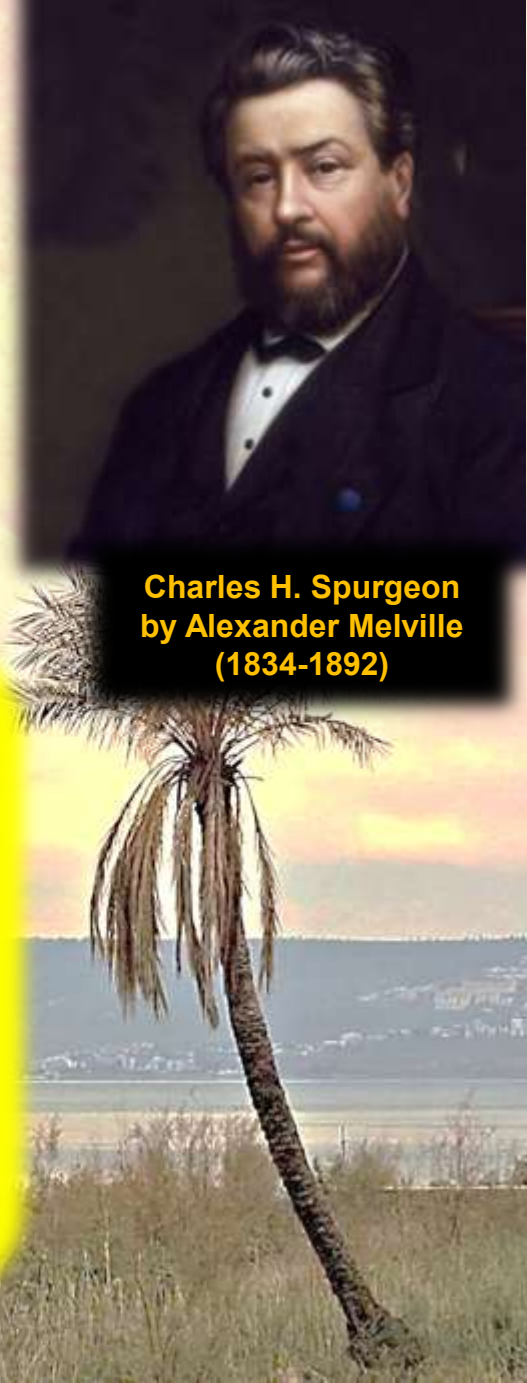
Charles H. Spurgeon in a sermon titled:
“The Final Separation” on Matt 25:32

On that judgment of vs 32, Spurgeon gave a poem:

*“The day that many thought should never come;
That all the tricked wished should never come;
That all the righteous had expected long;
Day they greatly feared, and yet too little feared
By him who feared it most.”*

A DAY of fear & wrath, a DAY of destruction of the ungodly,
a testing DAY to ALL mankind,
a DAY which shall burn as an oven.

We may tremblingly say of it, “Who may abide the DAY
of his coming, and who shall stand when he appeareth?
he is like a refiner’s fire ... that day when Christ shall come
He shall judge ALL nations.



Charles H. Spurgeon
by Alexander Melville
(1834-1892)

25:1-13 Parable of Ten Virgins

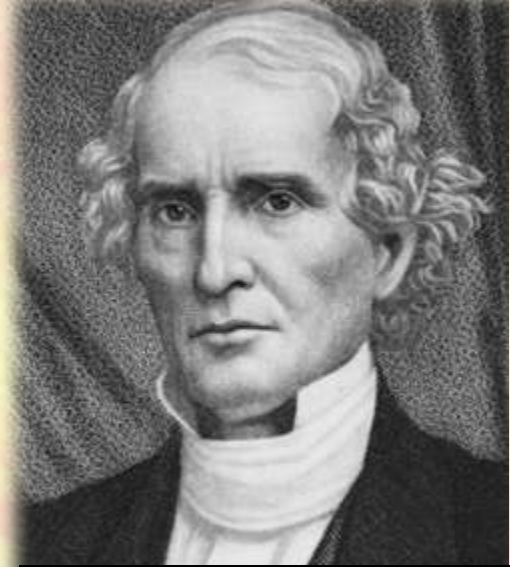
1 “At that time the **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** will be like
Ten Virgins who took lamps ... to meet the bridegroom.

Albert Barnes (1798–1870), American N.T. Scholar, noted
In the Ancient Middle East, wedding was followed by
7 days of Feasting in Bride’s father’s home, if a virgin
and 3 days if she was a widow

Then the Bridegroom took the Bride to his home

Likely, 10 Virgins waited to escort the two to their new home
Barnes told how American missionaries in Greece wrote of an
Armenian wedding. She described dresses & ceremonies,
then she said at 12 o'clock at night precisely the cry came:

"Behold, the Bridegroom Cometh"
immediately 5-6 men set off to meet him



Albert Barnes
(1798–1870)
American N.T. Scholar



Matthew 25

25:1-13 Parable of Ten Virgins

1 “At that time the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN will be like Ten Virgins who took lamps ... to meet the bridegroom.

2-6 **5 Foolish** not enough lamp oil – **5 Wise** had extra lamp oil

6 “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom!....’

7-9 All trimmed wicks – Foolish were short of oil

9 “‘No,’ WISE replied, ‘there may not be enough oil for both.... Go to those who sell oil & buy some for yourselves.’

10 ... bridegroom arrived. Virgins who were ready went in with him to the Wedding Banquet. DOOR SHUT.

Kingdom of Heaven is like a Wedding Banquet for **PREPARED**

BEWARE – do NOT read something into ever word

REMEMBER – Parables have an OVERARCHING Meaning



Matthew 25

25:1-13 Parable of Ten Virgins

11 “Later the others [Foolish Virgins] also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I DON’T KNOW YOU.’

13 “Therefore, keep watch, because

you do NOT know the DAY or the HOUR.

Very clear—there WILL BE Foolish Lamp Carriers

Very clear—Door will be SHUT, Time WILL Run OUT

Very clear—SOME will NOT make it to the Banquet that had Planned & Wanted & Prepared HALF WAY

Both Brought Lamps – Both Trimmed Wicks

Only the WISE PREPARED for a the Unknown TIME

Many see Ten Virgins as the Church



Matthew 25

25:14-30 Parable of the Bags of Gold

14 “Again, it [*Kingdom of Heaven*] will be like a man going on a journey, called his servants & entrusted his wealth to them.

15 5 Bags of Gold, 2 Bags of Gold, 1 Bag of Gold – to their Ability

16-18 Man w 5 & Man w 2 INVESTED & Earned MORE

Man w 1 Bag HID it in the ground, zero interest rate

19 “After a long time, the master ... returned & SETTLED....

20-23 Man w 5 made 5 MORE, Man w 2 made 2 MORE ...

‘Well done, good and faithful servant!....

Come and share your master’s happiness!’

REWARDED for risking Master’s Bags of Gold

We understand that—but what if they had LOST?

Remember—do NOT overthink these or APPLY every element

These 3 Parables seem to INCREASE in Severity & in Cursing



Matthew 25

25:14-30 Parable of the Bags of Gold

24 “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came.

‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a **HARD MAN**,
harvesting where you have not sown &
gathering where you have not scattered seed.

25 So I was afraid & hid your gold in the ground.

See, **HERE** is what belongs to you.’

26-27 MASTER NAILS HIM – “wicked, lazy servant!”

So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown....

Should’ve deposited in bank for interest...

28 “So take the bag of gold from him & give it to ... **TEN** bags.

Most Brutal Parable – how is this the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?

From Foolish Virgins who did NOT PLAN for DELAY – to

To a man who is “Wicked” for being Fearful & Careful!



25:14-30 Parable of the Bags of Gold

Albert Barnes (1798–1870), American N.T. Scholar, noted

Design of the parable is to teach that those who improve

**their talents or faculties in the cause of religion
who improve them to their own salvation and in**

doing good to others shall be proportionally rewarded;

**but they who neglect their talents, who neither secure
their own salvation nor do good to others,**

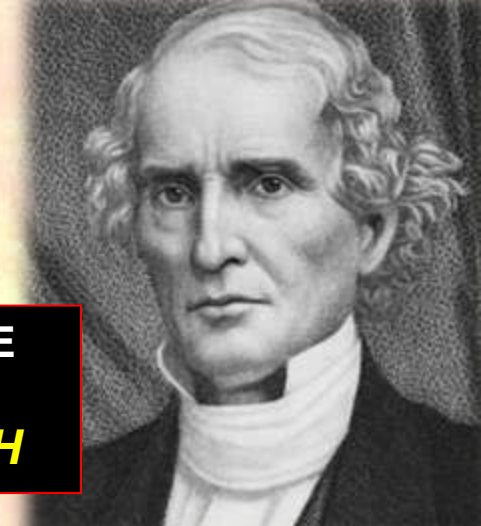
will be punished.

We are to ALWAYS be a Student & a Servant to ALL

Learning as Disciples ... as well as Serving for the Kingdom

**You & ME
THE
CHURCH**

**Albert Barnes
(1798–1870)
American N.T. Scholar**



Matthew 25

25:14-30 Parable of the Bags of Gold

29 For whoever HAS will be given MORE,
and they will have an abundance.

Whoever does not have, even what they have will be TAKEN.

30 THROW that worthless servant outside, into the darkness,
where there will be weeping & GNASHING OF TEETH.'

Brutal – HOW CAN THIS BE?

Fearful Careful man GOES TO HELL?!?

What ELSE can this MEAN WITHOUT CONVOLUTION?

“Be Prepared” takes its Most Brutal Unmerciful Turn

Matthew 25

25:31-46 Parable of the Sheep & Goats

THIS Parable is almost NOT a Parable, easy to read as *Simple Prophecy*

**In the “Prepared” sequence of Noah’s Flood, Night Thief,
Trusting Master, 10 Virgins, & 3 Men w Bags of Gold**

We have this on the Day of the Lord

**31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with Him,
He will sit on His glorious throne.**

**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.**

**As the third short parable unfolds, I imagine the disciples
On the EDGE of their seat, eyes transfixed on Jesus**





**Landscape with a Goat and Sheep
by Philipp Peter Roos (1655–1706)**

Matthew 25

25:31-46 Parable of the Sheep & Goats

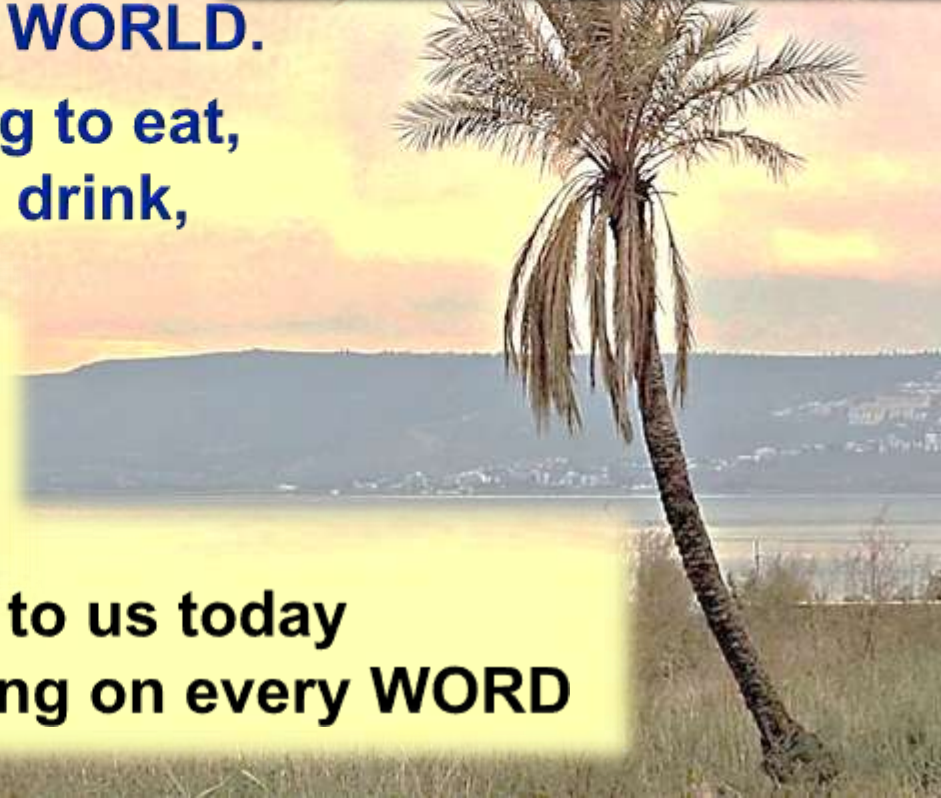
33 He will put the Sheep on His right, Goats on left.

**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.**

**35 For I was hungry & you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty & you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger & you invited me in,**

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

**These important words MIGHT sound tedious to us today
But the FIRST time, I suspect the disciples hung on every WORD**



**Jesus – their master, shepherd, healer ... and
Soon to be their SAVIOR, but they did not know YET
SOON dark time would come – but NOT NOW
On Mt. Olivet, PEACE as Jesus told the FUTURE**

You raise me up so I can stand on mountains

You raise me up to walk on stormy seas

I am strong when I am on your shoulders

You raise me up to more than I can be

THERE – can you see the DISCIPLES

I can see them clearly, on the edge of their seats

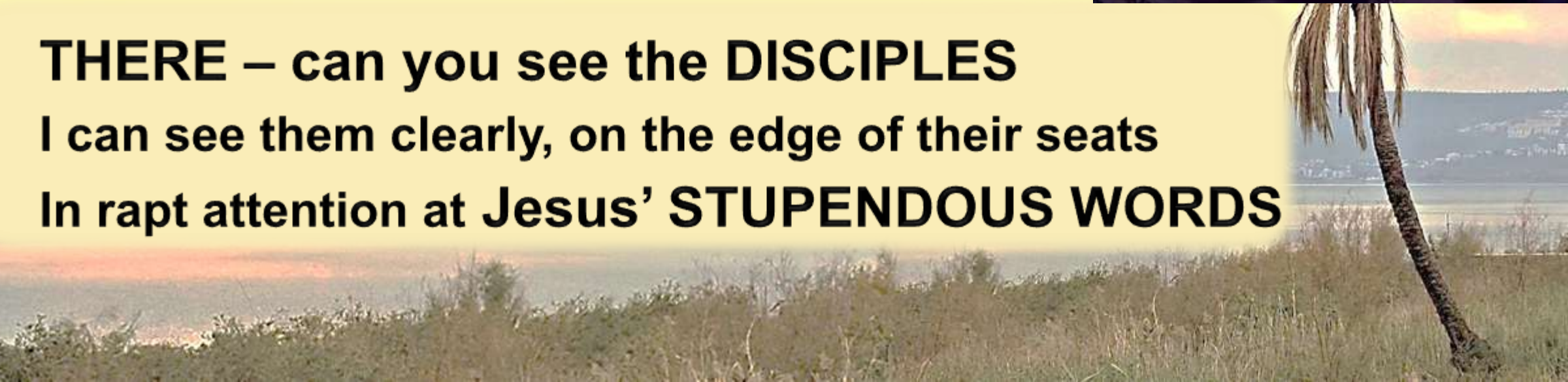
In rapt attention at Jesus' STUPENDOUS WORDS



You raise me up
Tu me elevas



97.6K



**Charles H. Spurgeon in a sermon titled:
“The Final Separation” on Matt 25:32**

Sheep & Goats. There shall be TWO POSITIONS:

He shall put His sheep on the right hand... goats left.

Is there no place for a third party?

No, for the simple reason there is NO THIRD CLASS.

**There will then be none for this other reason,
that there NEVER was a third class....**

**I pray you remember that there are but TWO BOOKS, and
in one or other of those two your name must
stand recorded by the hand of God,
FOR THERE IS NO THIRD BOOK.**



**Charles H. Spurgeon
by Alexander Melville
(1834-1892)**

Matthew 25

25:31-46 Parable of the Sheep & Goats

37 “Then the **RIGHTEOUS** will answer him,
‘Lord, when did we see you hungry & feed you,
or thirsty and give you something to drink?’

38 When did we see you a stranger & invite you in,
or needing clothes & clothe you?’

39 When did we see you sick or in prison & go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you,
whatever you did for one of the least of
these brothers & sisters of mine, **YOU DID FOR ME.**’

Jesus repeats, inculcates, reenforces to drill in the **PICTURE**
WHO CARED for the “**LEAST of THESE**” like Jesus did?



**Charles H. Spurgeon in a sermon titled:
“The Final Separation” on Matt 25:32**

**There is the Lamb’s Book of Life,
and if your name is there, HAPPY ARE YOU.**

**If it is NOT there, your sins still stand recorded in the
books which contain the condemning evidence which
will seal the death warrants of unbelievers.**

**Listen to me. There are in this world nowhere any
other sort of people beside those who are
DEAD in sin and those who are ALIVE unto God.**

There is no state between.

**A man either LIVES or is DEAD;
you cannot find a neutral condition.**



**Charles H. Spurgeon
by Alexander Melville
(1834-1892)**





**Goats and Sheeps, c. 1870
by Anton Braith (1836-1905)**

Matthew 25

25:31-46 Parable of the Sheep & Goats

**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 & his angels.**

**42 For I was hungry & you gave me nothing to eat,
I was thirsty & you gave me nothing to drink,**

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

**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?’**

Disciple HEAR and WONDER – not grasping until much LATER



Charles H. Spurgeon in a sermon titled:
“The Final Separation” on Matt 25:32

NO STATE is there that is **NOT** within the boundary
of either **LIFE** or **DEATH**. Is not this clear enough?

No state between being **CONVERTED & UNCONVERTED** —
between being **QUICKENED** and being **DEAD** in sin....

No state between dwelling in **DARKNESS &**
being brought into marvelous **LIGHT**.

Great folly of mankind in all times is the **DREAM** of a **MIDDLE**
For this cause the old prophet on Carmel’s brow heralded,
“How long halt ye between two opinions?

If the Lord be God, follow Him! But if Baal, follow him!”

Great declaration of the gospel is

“He that believeth & is baptized shall be **SAVED**:
he that believeth **NOT SHALL BE DAMNED.**”



Charles H. Spurgeon
by Alexander Melville
(1834-1892)

Easy to be
SAVED
Easier to be
LOST

Matthew 25

25:31-46 Parable of the Sheep & Goats

45 “He will reply,

‘Truly I tell you, whatever you DID NOT DO FOR ONE of the least of these, YOU DID NOT DO FOR ME.’

46 “Then they will go away TO ETERNAL PUNISHMENT,

but the **RIGHTEOUS TO ETERNAL LIFE.**”

These are clear straightforward powerfully definitive words

These are TRUTH without ERROR or duplicity or equivocation

These are Prophecy – certain as the Exodus – strong as Samson

Sure as David before Goliath – as fiery as Elijah on Mt. Carmel

THESE WORDS—Jesus Himself said would last **ETERNALLY**

Before a SINGLE Word here shall fail, **ALL** the World will **Burn**



What can ANYONE say that day on Mt. Olivet?

Then I am still and wait here in the silence

Until You come & sit awhile with me

You raise me up so I can stand on mountains

You raise me up to walk on stormy seas

I am strong when I am on your shoulders

You raise me up to

more than I can be

Soon, the disciples would truly become

MORE than they *ever* thought they could be

