

Left Behind?

Is it really consistent with the teaching of Jesus that people actually have an opportunity to repent after His coming? Is a “second chance” offered to people left behind after the rapture? Will there really be a “seven year” period where those who have been “Left Behind” will have an opportunity to be saved. Please consider the two passages below as you study and ponder this matter.

In Luke Chapter 13, Jesus actually speaks of a group of people who will “*seek to enter*” the kingdom but, “*will not be able to.*” These are people who are left outside the door, once the owner of the house closes the door.

Luke 13:24-30 - 24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because **many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.** 25 Once the owner of the house gets up and **closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading,** 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, **'I don't know you or where you come from.'**

In this passage we see the concept that we must enter through the “narrow door” while we have opportunity because, when “the owner of the house gets up and closes the door”, *the window of opportunity to enter has past.* Further, those who are left outside are answered by the owner of the house, “I don’t know you or where you come from.”

Luke 13:26-27 - "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' 27 "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. **Away from me, all you evildoers!**'

Here the owner of the house confirms that *those who are “Left Behind” will not gain entrance to the kingdom* saying, “Away from me, all you evildoers!” He goes on to explain the actual destiny of those who do not enter through the narrow door while there is opportunity, using *terms consistent with death and hell.* He explains that while all those who entered are at the feast in the kingdom, *those who did not enter will be “thrown out.”*

Luke 13:28-29 "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, **but you yourselves thrown out.** 29 People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

Dear reader, take heed to the words of Jesus as he exhorts concerning the events of the end times,

Matt 24:4 - 4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. NIV

It is important the we are “ready” for the Lord’s return TODAY! This is not a matter which can wait for a more convenient time, *for “no one knows the day or the hour” of His return.* He exhorts us here and also in the passage below to “be ready.”

This parable of the ten virgins is in the broader context of the Olivett Discourse, Jesus teaching on end time events. It deals with His second coming and exhorts us to be *ready for His return, like the “five wise” virgins.*

Matt 25:1-13 - 25:1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like **ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.** 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' 7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. **And the door was shut.**

Here we see that the “five wise” virgins were ready for His return and the “five foolish” were not. While the five foolish were away, the bridegroom arrived and took the five wise with him, **and the door was shut**. This parable uses very similar language to the passage in Luke that we just looked at like, the door being shut, the foolish standing outside knocking and pleading, and the response-“I don’t know you.” **Consider the fate of these five foolish virgins who were “Left Behind.”** There was no “second chance” or opportunity for them to go with the bridegroom.

Matt 25:11-13 - "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' 12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, **I don't know you.**'

It is important for us as Christians to be discerning and to understand these principles that Christ teaches us. If God thought it was important enough to record in the Word, we had better take heed. And when we are taught by men, we should always be the noble Bereans to check the scriptures to see if these things be true. The teachings in these scriptures are very clear. Let them bring light to our eyes and instruction for our learning. Let us be ready and;

Matt 25:13 "**Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.** NIV

May I suggest further reading for those of you who are interested in further understanding these important matters.

The Blessed Hope - George Ladd

The Last Days Handbook – Robert P Lightner

If you wish to further dialogue on these matters, feel free to email me at shaan@heavenslight.org