

FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH

(Rev. 2:10, 11)

Introduction:

1. We have discussed before that being faithful “unto death” means being faithful until we die and even if it results in our being killed. The Bible is filled with admonitions unto continued faithfulness, because a race half run is complete lost.
2. Matt. 25 contains some of the most powerful admonitions unto continued faithfulness. Let us consider it this morning in its fullness. Let us note its context, its two parables and its closing practicum. Let us learn and profit thereby.

Discussion:

I. The Context.

- A. Detailing of how Jesus’ birth and childhood fulfilled the many prophecies concerning the Christ (Matt. 1, 2).
- B. Detailing of how the life and teaching of Jesus proved beyond a shadow of doubt that He was/is indeed the Christ, the Son of the living God (Matt. 3-22).
- C. Jesus’ warning and pronouncement of woes upon religious hypocrites, and His sorrow concerning the lost (Matt. 23).
- D. Jesus’ foretelling of the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (Matt. 24:1-35) and His 2nd coming (Matt. 24:36-42).
- E. The immediate lead-in to chapter 25 are a couple of illustrations as admonitions unto faithfulness (Matt. 24:43-51).
 1. If the homeowner knew the hour the thief would come he would not be robbed (Matt. 24:43, 44).
 2. A faithful and wise servant is one whose returning master finds him hard at work (Matt. 24:45-47). The evil servant is found not at work, but serving himself (Matt. 24:48-51).

II. Two Parables.

- A. The Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matt. 25:1-13).
 1. This scene would have been a common one to those to whom Jesus was speaking. The bride and bridegroom were paraded with much pomp and ceremony to the final wedding feast.
 2. The ten virgins (or bridesmaids) were divided into two groups; the wise and the foolish. The wise brought extra oil with them in case the ceremonies took longer than expected. The foolish did not.
 3. The bridegroom was delayed and the lamps of the foolish virgins went out, leaving them out of the procession and feast.
 4. Lessons to learn: make preparation for steadfast faithfulness for we know not when THE Bridegroom is returning (Matt. 24:36, 42, 44); we cannot “borrow” the faithfulness of others (Matt. 25:8, 9; 2 Cor. 5:10); and note the frightening similarity between vv 11, 12 and Matt. 7:21-23.
- B. The Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14-30).
 1. Three servants are given charge of various portions of their master’s wealth as he travels to a far country.
 2. Upon his return, the master receives an account of how each servant managed their portion of his wealth. The two servants who used the wealth to gain more wealth were rewarded. The one who did not was punished severely.
 3. Lessons to learn: God has given all of us various portions of His blessings of intellect, resources, time, etc. and we will have to give an account one day on what we did with what He gave us; God expects us to use our “talents” for Him and His benefit (which is conveniently our benefit); and woe to those who cannot give a satisfactory account (cp. 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12).

III. The Practicum (Matt. 25:31-46).

- A. Our Lord concludes this powerful admonition unto continued faithfulness with a “rubber hitting the road” instruction.
- B. When our Lord returns He will sit in glory and judge all the world (vv 31-33; cp. Phil. 2:10; 2 Cor. 5:10). The righteous (sheep) shall receive a position of honor (the right hand), but the unrighteous (goats) shall receive dishonor (the left hand).
- C. Our Lord provides practical criteria for judgment (vv 34-46).
 1. Those who not only knew and believed but also obeyed all of the Lord’s commands shall receive their reward, eternal life (cp. Jas. 2:10).
 2. Those who did not do all of these things shall receive eternal punishment (cp. 2 Thess. 1:8, 9).

Conclusion:

1. The conclusion of Matthew is the loving, sacrificial death of Jesus, His resurrection and promise to return (cp. “end of the age-Matt. 28:20 with “end of the age”-Matt. 24:3).
2. This conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew provides added motivation for our continued faithfulness: the love of God; the hope/truth of resurrection; and the reinforced promises.
3. So, hear we are. How do we align with our Lord’s admonition? Have you come to Jesus for the cleansing power and been washed in the blood of the Lamb? Are you living each moment for the crucified?
4. Invitation.

MORE ON “FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH”

1. 1 John 1:7 in context of John 1:1-14.
 - Jesus is God just as the Father and Holy Spirit. He is the creator of all (John 1:3, 10; cp. Col. 1:15-19).
 - He came into the world to bring spiritual life (John 1:4; He already gave us physical life) in the fulfillment of Gen. 3:15; 12:3; John 3:15-18.
 - He came as the Light of the world (John 1:4-9): that we might see God (John 14:9); that we might see the Way (John 17:15-26); and that we might be saved (John 3:16; Rom. 8:29).
 - Although He came and did all this, most will not accept Him (will not walk by His light = John 1:10, 11).
 - But those that do, oh Lord, the blessings (John 1:12-14).
 - Now, let us read 1 John 1:1-10.
2. That which must be overcome (Acts 20:28-31; 1 Tim. 4; 2 Tim. 3; et al).
3. Eph. 6:10-24 = to us today = we have been fully equipped to remain faithful despite the full on assault of the world/devil. Note especially the overcoming truth of v23.