



“The *Megillah* of Matthew”

24:43-25:46

As we continue in chapter 24, Yeshua is still teaching His disciples on the Mount of Olives. It is Monday, Nisan 12, late in the afternoon. As we concluded our lesson last time Yeshua had told them that when He comes that some will rise to meet Him in the air and some will not. It will be just like the days of Noah. Yeshua will come suddenly when we don't expect in the same way that the door to the ark was shut suddenly at its determined time. Speaking about His followers being prepared for that time, He said this: 43 *“But know this, that if the master of the house had known what time the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and not let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect”* (Matthew 24:43-44 TLV). Each of us as the master of our house, our life, must keep watch. Just as we must be prepared in order to prevent our actual house from being broken into by a thief, so we must also have our spiritual house, our life, prepared for our Messiah's return. He is coming at an hour that we do not expect. Those who say they want to experience life for a while, but will accept Yeshua one day, may be disappointed. He could come any day!

45 *“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master put in charge of his household to give them food at the proper time? 46 Blessed is that servant whose master finds him so doing when he comes. 47 Amen, I tell you, his master will put him in charge of all his possessions.”* (Matthew 24:45-47 TLV). These verses are a part of a parable even though it isn't identified as one. It is designed to show us how we should act if we were expecting Yeshua's return at any moment. We are to faithfully continue to carry on the ministry with which He has charged us. The physical food of a house is a reference to the spiritual feeding of not only ourselves, but for a leader, the flock. But, the flock doesn't just apply to ministers and leaders. It applies to everyone. We all have been charged to feed the flock in some way. And, we will receive a blessing, a reward, in the life to come based upon our service to ADONAI in this life.

48 *“But if that wicked servant says in his heart, ‘My master is taking a long time,’ 49 and he begins to beat his fellow servants, and he 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 he will cut him in two and assign his place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Matthew 24:48-51 TLV). The opposite is also true. An unfaithful and wicked servant, a person who lives a sinful life, will be surprised when Yeshua returns and he is not prepared for it. Since he is called a servant, he or she may even be someone who has professed a belief in Yeshua but is not living the life which Yeshua taught. Weeping and gnashing of teeth refers to their place in the world to come: 42 *“They will throw them into the fiery furnace; in that place will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Matthew 13:42 TLV). We could call them “bino's,” believers in name only.

1 *“Then 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 For when the*

foolish ones took their lamps, they took no oil with them. 4 But the wise ones took oil in jars along with their lamps" (Matthew 25:1-4 TLV). Some theologians say that these virgins survived the "great tribulation," but as you and I know, it is not a future event and was the tribulation of Jerusalem in 70 CE. These virgins are contemporary with us today as we wait for Yeshua's return. This parable is a continuation of the theme of being prepared for Yeshua's return and is depicted through the events of a Jewish wedding.

A Jewish wedding has two parts, *erusin*, the betrothal and *nissuin*, the actual marriage ceremony. The bride, the *kallah*, is the body of Messiah which is waiting for Yeshua, the *chatan*, the bridegroom. This raises a question. When did Yeshua become the bridegroom? The answer is that He has always been the bridegroom; from before the foundation of the earth. But when in His physical existence did He become identified as the bridegroom. We are not specifically told when, but my supposition is that it was at His immersion in the Jordan River. At a point in time after Yeshua's immersion, *Yochanan* the Immerser, John, said: 29 *"The one who has the bride is the bridegroom, but the best man rejoices when he stands and hears the bridegroom's voice. So now my joy is complete"* (John 3:29 TLV)! John identified himself as the best man. If *erusin*, betrothal, took place when Yeshua was immersed, John was there standing by as the best man. And, he very likely will be present in the future as we, the bride, are joined together with Yeshua at *nissuin*, the actual marriage ceremony.

The bridesmaids, themselves, are first thought to be members of the body of Messiah, themselves members of the bride. Their role is to depict the faithful and the least faithful in what appears to be Yeshua's body. They had all trusted in Yeshua or had portrayed themselves as having done so. The oil symbolizes the *Ruach Kodesh*, the Holy Spirit, in the lives of Yeshua's followers. The faithful ones were filled with the Spirit and walking faithfully in Yeshua's teaching. The least faithful ones had the Spirit, at least the amount which was given at salvation, but they had not chosen to fully walk with Yeshua. It seems that they had the bare requirement for salvation; at least initially.

5 *"Now while the bridegroom was taking a long time, they all got drowsy and started falling asleep"* (Matthew 25:5 TLV). The ancient time between betrothal and marriage was one year or more. There was no specific time set. It depended upon when the groom was able to complete his preparation for his bride. During this time, he would have been at his father's house and would have constructed a home for his *chalah* and made financial preparations to be able to care for her and his future family. We became betrothed to Yeshua when we trusted in His sacrifice of Himself for us, but He has actually been away at His Father's house for more than two thousand years. Before He left, He said: 2 *"In My Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to Myself, so that where I am you may also be"* (John 14:2-3 TLV). This two thousand years and more is the betrothal for all who have trusted in Him, from the 1st century until now. We don't know exactly how long it will be until He returns, but we must not get drowsy and fall asleep. It could be any time.

6 *But in the middle of the night there was a shout, 'Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him'* (Matthew 25:6 TLV)! This is very much like the examples given earlier. We don't know when His return will be just as the men and women of Noah's day did not know when the door of the ark would be shut. Some Bible versions say midnight, but I believe that the TLV has translated it correctly. The Greek *mesos*, (*mes'-os*), means middle while midnight is

represented by two different words, either *mesányichta* (mes-an-icta) or *mesonýktio* (mesanik-tio). This is not intended to indicate the actual time specific time of the 24 hour day that Yeshua will come, but that it will occur during the time that people usually are sleeping. This means that we must be prepared for it to occur even in the middle of the night. And, sleeping is also a metaphor. We must be awake spiritually and not asleep.

7 Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 Now the foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, since our lamps are going out." 9 But the wise ones replied, "No, there won't be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell, and buy some for yourselves." 10 But while they were going off to buy, the bridegroom came. And those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was shut (Matthew 25:7-10 TLV). All the virgins got up and trimmed their lamps, a preparation to meet the bridegroom. The foolish virgins were unprepared. Yeshua appeared in the heavens and they did not have a ticket to ride. They did not know Him and did not rise to meet Him along with the wise virgins. They had a form of godliness, but not the relationship. They were some of those who had said, "I'll trust Yeshua later. Right now, I just want to live my life." And, while they were going off to buy oil, that is, to commit themselves to Yeshua, He came, and it was too late. The others rose to meet Yeshua in the air as described in 1Corinthians 15 and 1Thessalonians 4. His second coming is apart from sin. When He returns, salvation will not be available. It will be too late. Read Hebrews 9:28. The door to the wedding feast was already closed. 11 Now later, the other virgins came, saying, 'Sir, Sir, open up for us!' 12 "But he replied, 'Amen, I tell you, I do not know you.' 13 Therefore stay alert, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (Matthew 25:11-13 TLV). The Shepherd knows His sheep. These virgins are lost and without hope. There will be no more salvation after Yeshua's return to earth. The shutting of the door to the wedding feast is symbolic of shutting the door to salvation. That is why there will be no one thousand year reign of Messiah on the earth. Everyone who gets saved does so before His return to earth as we are told in Hebrews 13. If He came back and ruled for a thousand years with unsaved people living all around, people who could never get saved, would that make any sense?

The Parable of the Talents which comes next is a continuation of the same line of thought, being prepared. *14 "For it is like a man about to go on a journey. He called his own servants and handed over his possessions to them. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey" (Matthew 25:14-15 TLV). This was a rich man. He wealth was 8 talents of money, the total amount which he gave to the three servants. The verse says: "he handed over his possessions to them," which means that he entrusted everything he owned to them. There is not exact agreement on the value of a talent, but it was said to be a 36 kilogram weight, about 80 pounds. It could be a talent either of silver or gold, but which is not specified here. But, in either case, that's a lot of money. Breaking it down further, we see that a denarius was the usual payment for a day's wage. One talent was equal to 6,000 denari, or sixteen years worth of wages. The servant who got 5 talents would have received 30,000 denari, the equivalent of eighty years of one person's labor. The one who got 2 talents got 12,000 denari and the one who got 1 talent, 6,000 denari. The man entrusted his entire fortune to these three servants, but to each according to his ability.*

16 "Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them and gained five more. 17 In the same way, the one with two gained two more. 18 But the one who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money" (Matthew 25:16-18 TLV). The first two used their ability to increase their master's wealth. The third

servant also had the ability to increase his one talent, perhaps not as much, but he chose not to do so.

The master returned from his journey. 19 *“Now after a long time, the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 The one who had received the five talents came up and brought another five talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed me five talents. Look, I’ve gained five more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a little, so I’ll put you in charge of much. Enter into your master’s joy”* (Matthew 25:19-21 TLV)! A long time would be some unknown number of years. In the case of Yeshua, a long time is beyond the two thousand years He has already been away from the earth. When He returns, He will ask us for a reckoning of what we have done with our “talents,” our lives. Some who are especially gifted and also diligent will return to Him double what they were given. *Sha’ul* tells us: 10 *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah, so that each one may receive what is due for the things he did while in the body—whether good or bad”* (2Corinthians 5:10 TLV). This faithful servant received his due for the good things which he did to further the Kingdom of Heaven.

22 *“The one who had received the two talents also came up and said, ‘Master, you handed me two talents. Look, I’ve gained two more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with a little, so I’ll put you in charge of much. Enter into your master’s joy”* (Matthew 25:22-23 TLV)! This servant who had lesser abilities also doubled what he was given. He, also, stood before Yeshua and received his due and as it says, Yeshua was also happy with him. He, along with the first servant, received a reward, a reward in proportion to what he had done with Yeshua’s talents which had been entrusted to him. His reward will be received in the world to come, that which we understand to be eternity. How things work there is but a shadow to us here in this world, except that we do know that there are rewards, rewards which last for eternity and not just the eye blink of a human lifetime. So, it’s important for us to understand that what we do in this short lifetime will have an influence on our life in eternity.

24 *“Then the one who had received the one talent also came up and said, ‘Master, I knew that you are a hard man, reaping where you didn’t sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. 25 So I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ 26 “But his master responded, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! You knew that I reap where I didn’t sow and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you should have brought my money to the brokers, and when I came I would have received it back with interest. 28 Therefore take the talent away from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For to the one who has, more shall be given, and he shall have an abundance. But from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. 30 Throw the worthless servant out, into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Matthew 24:24-30 TLV). The response of this servant reveals that he really didn’t know his master and that he was a lazy and ungrateful man. His talents, even though lesser than his two associates, were worthy according to the master, to be used. But, he did not use them. Because this person was cast into outer darkness, cast into complete separation from ADONAI, it is apparent this man was not a true believer. He apparently went through the motions and claimed to be a follower of Yeshua, but actually was not. But, even though he was not saved, so to speak, what happened to him also has implications for people who have trusted in Yeshua, but have no fruit in their lives. Yeshua expects everyone who receives His grace to work for the Kingdom. A person who trusts in Yeshua, that is, one who is saved, will receive either 1, 2, or 5 symbolic talents. But, if he does not use them to further the Kingdom, his eternal life

will be affected. This type of person buries his talents in the ground and does not use them for the Kingdom. At the time of reckoning, they would not be cast into outer darkness, but also would not receive the reward of an overcomer.

As followers of Yeshua, we are all called to be overcomers. Yeshua said: 26 *“To the one who overcomes and guards My deeds until the end, I will give him authority over the nations”* (Revelation 2:26 TLV). This verse shows us that a follower of Yeshua cannot just believe; he must also act, and not only act, but act until the end. The end is when Yeshua returns and even though we may have been long dead at that time, we will receive Yeshua’s reward. 21 *“To the one who overcomes I will grant the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I myself overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne”* (Revelation 3:21 TLV). Wow! What an incentive to achieve for Yeshua. Sitting on the throne with Yeshua will be to rule with Him, ruling in the areas in which we are rewarded! 7 *“The one who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son”* (Revelation 21:7 TLV). The Father said these words. What are the things which we will inherit? Read the preceding verses. The overcomer will live in the new Jerusalem in the presence of the Father and the Lamb. Is it so difficult to be an overcomer? Not according to Yochanan, John: 4 *“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. And the victory that has overcome the world is this—our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world, if not the one who believes that Yeshua is Ben-Elohim”* (1John 5:4-5 TLV)? If we believe that Yeshua is the Son of G-d, we have the necessary faith to overcome the world. But, it’s not a choice; it’s expected of us!

In chapter 24, Yeshua gave us the parable of the “Faithful Servant” and in chapter 25 the parables of “The Ten Virgins” and “The Talents.” This same line of thought continues in these next verses. They are about “the world to come” and how our action in this age, this world, will affect our life in the world to come. 31 *“Now when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, just as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats”* (Matthew 25:31-32 TLV). Dispensationalists see this as a separate judgment by Messiah before the Thousand Year Reign. As I have stated before, my belief is that there is no 1000 year reign of Messiah Yeshua before we enter eternity. The Thousand Year Reign is a theology begun by a rabbinical writing in the *Talmud*, continued by rabbis in the middle ages and then picked up and amplified by dispensationalists. For more information on this, read my message of August 8, 2020, *Parasha Ekev* entitled “The Millennium.” It can be found in the messages stored on our website, www.beitshalom.us. Some say these verses indicate a judgment of nations. But, the text does not indicate that. It simply says that the people of all nations will be gathered before Him and the people will be separated, not the nations.

33 *“And He will put the sheep on His right, but the goats on His left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world’* (Matthew 25:33-34 TLV). We who have been faithful and are overcomers will be placed on the King’s right and we will receive our reward because as He said: 35 *“For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me”* (Matthew 25:35-36 TLV). All of these things are things that are expected of followers of Yeshua. If we are His disciples, we will be doing all these things as an everyday part of our lives.

37 *“Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You? Or thirsty and give You something to drink? 38 And when did we see You a stranger and invite You in? Or naked and clothe You? 39 When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 “And answering, the King will say to them, ‘Amen, I tell you, whatever you did to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me”* (Matthew 25:37-40 TLV). Any time that we as Yeshua’s followers, do these things, we do it unto Him. Who is “one of the least of His brothers?” It is our neighbor whom He has commanded to love as ourselves. The least of Yeshua’s brothers or sisters are the homeless, the destitute, the hopeless, the lost, His Jewish brothers and sisters and anyone in need.

41 *Then He will also say to those on the left, ‘Go away from Me, you cursed ones, into the everlasting fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in; naked and you did not clothe Me; sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ 44 “Then they too will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not care for You”* (Matthew 25:41-44 TLV). Those on Yeshua’s left who will enter into eternal separation from ADONAI are not entering there because they did not provide these things to Yeshua, but because of the reason they did not provide them. Our salvation is not a works salvation. The truth is that these people never knew Him. They had a sickness unto eternal death the symptoms of which are not doing these things. We don’t do them to get saved, we do them because we are saved and these people were never saved. 45 *“Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Amen, I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me”* (Matthew 25:45 TLV). They don’t do these things because they don’t know Yeshua.

46 *“These shall go off to everlasting punishment, but the righteous into everlasting life”* (Matthew 25:46 TLV). I believe that there is but one judgment and it takes place after Yeshua has defeated all His enemies on the earth. That happens after He returns in the clouds to receive the righteous dead and living. We return to heaven with Him but almost immediately come back to earth with Him in our glorified bodies to take part in Yeshua’s defeat of the unrighteous at the battle of Armageddon. After that, He will judge the living and dead sheep and goats. We see this in John’s vision: 11 *“Then I saw a great white throne, and the One seated on it. The earth and heaven fled from His presence, but no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead—the great and the small—standing before the throne. The books were opened, and another book was opened—the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what was written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Sheol gave up the dead in them. Then they were each judged, each one of them, according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Sheol were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire”* (Revelation 20:11-15 TLV). I believe that the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats is about what will happen to the unrighteous at Yeshua’s final judgment. The goats, along with death and *Sheol*, the grave, will be thrown into the lake of fire. This means that will be no more death. In order to be a sheep, our names must be written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. A person who has not trusted in Yeshua is placed among the goats and thrown into the lake of fire, a symbolic way of saying that that they are eternally separated from ADONAI. As Yeshua said: 46 *“These shall go off to everlasting punishment, but the righteous into everlasting life”* (Matthew 25:46 TLV). And, what a wonderful life, a life with Yeshua and the Father, a life without sickness or death, a life filled with love and peace.

This completes chapter 25. It is now very late in the day on Monday, Nisan 12, two days before Yeshua's death on the stake. Yeshua has one more statement to make before they leave the Mount of Olives and we will hear it next time as we begin chapter 26. *Shalom aleichem!*