

## **Midnight Cry**

### **Key Verse: Mathew 25.1-13**

#### **Introduction**

Mathew is writing this gospel especially to the Jews presenting Jesus as Messiah.

There were a lot of prophecies regarding the kingdom of God and Messiah in the OT.  
Eg: Daniel

O.T. gives the picture of a suffering and reigning Messiah.

There is complete harmony with O.T. and N.T. prophecies.

Mathew's teaching on the kingdom of God:

#### **Focus**

1. The expected, OT prophecies of the kingdom Mt 1-12, 14-15.
2. Kingdom style Mt 5-7
3. On the present form of the kingdom Mt 13, 16-20
4. Specific prophecy by Jesus on the future Mt 24-25
  - What will happen while the king is absent? Mt 24:4-26
  - Tribulation – Mt 24.27-31.

Mathew 22 Jesus arguing with Jews

Mathew 23 Rebuking the Pharisees

Mathew 24 Answers to the questions of disciples

#### **3 Questions**

- When will the Second Coming happen?
- What will be the sign of Christ's Coming?
- What will be the sign of the End of the Age?

**Jesus answered the questions in the reverse order:**

#### **1. Signs of the End of the Age. Mathew 24. 4-26**

- Increase of technology
  - Radio – TV.
  - Telephone 1940
  - Moon 1969
  - Computer 1980
  - Internet 1973 -83 booming only in the last decade

- Gospel is being preaching all over the world.
- Spiritual darkness / apostasy
- Universalism – all road leads to God
- War – there have been 300+ wars after WW II -everyday there is war.
- Travel- in AD 1800 horse was the mode of transportation. 30mile/day was the average then. Now we have train, cars, planes, supersonics etc
- Increase of knowledge – up to 1750 knowledge had never doubled but from 1750 -2000, knowledge doubled by 250 years. Since 2005, knowledge has been doubling every year.
- Famines, wars, earthquakes have all happened throughout history but there has never been a generation like this.
- People in different ages predicted about the end times. All things have come together during this generation. For eg: When Daniel wrote about the mixture of clay and iron in the Nebuchadnezzar's dream statue(denoting the kingdoms), there was no understanding about democracy.

## **2. What will be the sign of Christ's Second Coming? Mathew 24:27-31.**

The Bible's prophetic clock ticks according to what's happening with the Jewish people and Israel.

## **3. When will the Second Coming happen? Mathew 24:32-25:30 v.36**

In this context, we will try to understand this parable of Mathew 25.1-13

### **Jewish wedding**

- Father of the groom would find his son's bride.
- Father of the groom plans and oversees all the wedding arrangements.
- Weddings were usually held in the evening.
- A week-long preparation
- Paul wrote that we are engaged to Jesus

### **10 virgins**

#### **Their similarities**

- Called themselves virgins – everybody calls themselves as Christians but only few are genuine.
- They looked alike – moral, sincere churchgoers but not saved.
- They all carried lamps.
- They all had the same purpose: to meet the bridegroom.

#### **Their dissimilarities**

- Five are foolish – not maintaining their Christian walk (Hypocritical, no depth, no passion, no fire insurance)

- Five are wise – they are children of the Light
- They appear the same on the outside but they are different on the inside – full of the Holy Spirit.

### **V.5. they were sleeping**

#### **Reasons for Christian sleeping**

- Tired
- Forget their purpose
- Lack of the study of the Word of God
- Lack of prayer – no power – no fellowship with God
- Lack of witnessing – no works of faith, no love for the lost, no fruit of the Spirit

#### **Results of Christian sleeping**

- Loss of power – Samson
- Loss of the communion with God
- Loss of the sense of responsibility
- Enemy will sow the weeds (Mt 13.25)

### **v.6 midnight – unexpected time the bride groom came**

#### **The prepared virgins**

- They arose – Eph 5.14; Rom 13.11
- They trimmed their lamp – Rev 3.3
- They were ready - 1 Thess 1.9
- They were with him -1 Thess 4.13-18
- Marriage – Rev 19.6-9
- The door shut – Rev 21:27; 22:10-12

#### **The unprepared virgins**

- Carrying lamp without oil – like a flashlight without battery
- They saw lamp as an ornament, not as an instrument. Bible is not an ornament to decorate but an instrument to navigate.
- They gambled their future on unknown presumptions.
  - They thought they could borrow oil from the other virgins – it was too late.
  - They presumed that the bride groom would change the rules for them.But He had already established the rules. He said, “Behold, I am coming”

### **Conclusion**

#### **3 lessons we can learn from this parable:**

- The necessity of being prepared
- The lost opportunity
- Certain things cannot be borrowed - faith, character, relationship with God.

