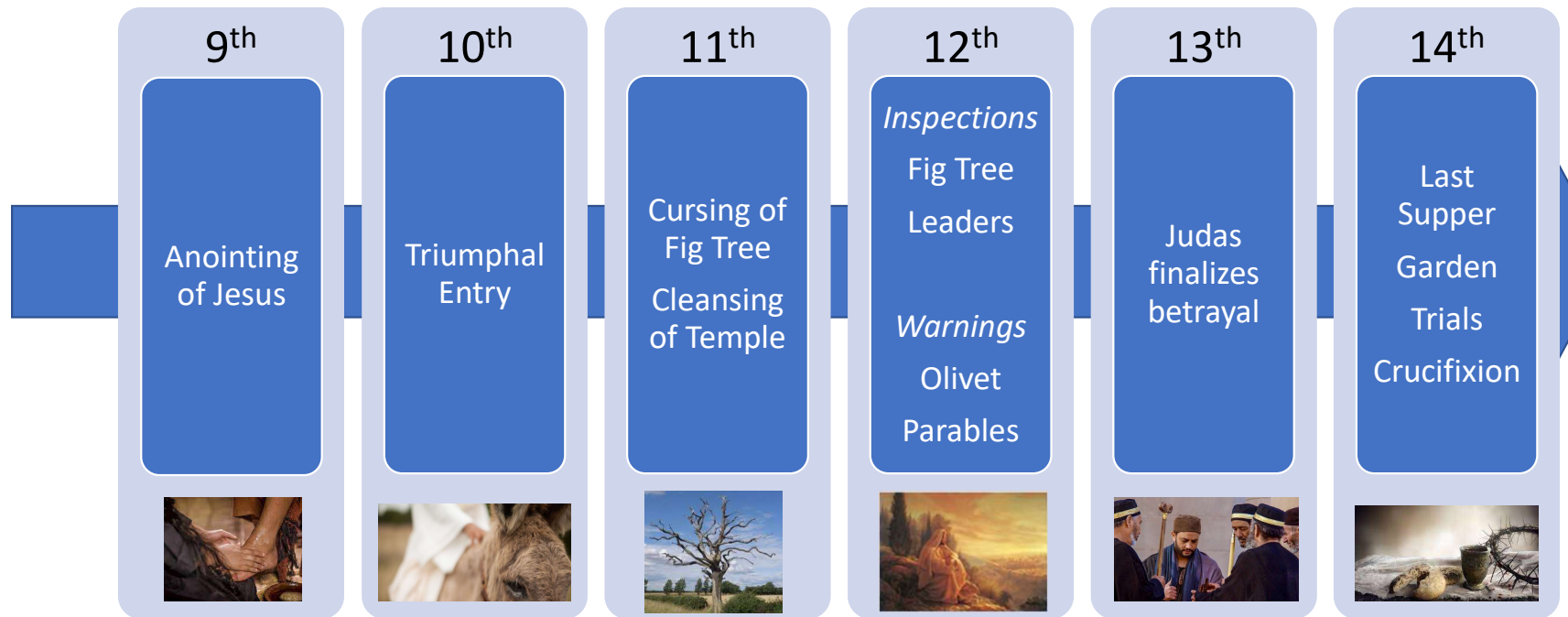


The Last Week of the Lord's Life

Class 3 – The Watchman's Warning



Last Week of the Lord's Life - Overview



1. The King's Entry
2. The Priest's Inspection
3. The Watchman's Warning
4. A Friend's Memorial
5. The Lamb's Offering

The Watchman's Warning – Outline



Event	Reference
8 woes delivered to the leaders	Matt 23:1-39
Olivet Prophecy	Matt 24:3-41
Parables of preparedness	
The 2 Servants	Matt 24:42-51
10 virgins	Matt 25:1-13
Talents	Matt 25:14-30
Sheep & Goats	Matt 25:31-46

The Watchman's Warning – 8 woes



#	Mt 23	Woe	Blessed	Mt 5
1	v.13	Hypocrites who shut kingdom Won't enter kingdom	Poor in Spirit Kingdom of Heaven	v.3
2	v.14	Devour widows houses / long prayers Condemned	Mourners Comforted	v.4
3	v.15	Convert others to <i>their</i> way Destined for grave	Meek – <i>willing to learn the right way</i> Inherit the earth	v.5
4	v.16-22	Blind guides Fill others w/ empty promises (cp v.15:14)	Hunger and thirst for righteousness Filled	v.6 (v.33-37)
5	v.23-24	Tithe herbs, but omit mercy... (<i>won't obtain mercy cp v.9:13; 12:7</i>)	Merciful Obtain mercy	v.7
6	v.25-26	Clean outside, but inside impure 'Blind Pharisee' – <i>can't see God</i>	Pure in heart See God	v.8
7	v.27-28	Whited sepulchers – dead inside (Rom 6:11) (<i>not God's children... at peace with sin</i>)	Peacemakers (Eph 2:14-18 – 'in himself') Children of God	v.9
8	v.29-33	Build tombs of prophets Condemnation of grave	Persecuted for righteousness' sake Kingdom of Heaven	v.10-12

The Watchman was sounding the alarm... but they wouldn't respond! (v.37-39)

Thematic warnings of the watchman



- 1) Many not ready when Christ returns
- 2) Christ takes longer than believers think
- 3) Despite delay, Christ IS coming
- 4) Christ instructs to watch and be ready

**Readiness is a way of life pursued at all times
NOT
an event of life targeted at a point in time**

Thematic warnings of the watchman



- 1) Many not ready when Christ returns
 - “day and hour knoweth no man” (24:36)
 - “knew not until the flood” (24:39)
 - “know not what hour” (24:42)
 - “if the goodman... had known” (24:43)
 - “hour as ye think not” (24:44) lit. an hour when you are not thinking
 - “when he looketh not... an hour he is not aware” (24:50)
 - “all slumbered and slept” (25:5)
 - “our lamps are going out” (25:8)
 - “ye know neither the day nor the hour” (25:13)
- 2) Christ takes longer than believers think
- 3) Despite delay, Christ IS coming
- 4) Christ instructs to watch and be ready

Thematic warnings of the watchman



- 1) Many not ready when Christ returns
- 2) Christ takes longer than believers think
 - “my lord delayeth his coming” (24:48)
 - “bridegroom tarried” (25:5)
 - “midnight” (25:6)
 - “travelling into a far country” (25:14)
 - “After a long time the lord... cometh” (25:19)
- 3) Despite delay, Christ IS coming
- 4) Christ instructs to watch and be ready

Thematic warnings of the watchman



- 1) Many not ready when Christ returns
- 2) Christ takes longer than believers think
- 3) Despite delay, Christ IS coming
 - “know that it is near” (24:33)
 - “my words shall not pass away” (24:35)
 - “the Son of man cometh” (24:44)
 - “when he cometh” (24:46)
 - “lord... shall come” (24:50)
 - “Behold the bridegroom cometh” (25:6)
 - “The Son of man cometh” (25:13)
 - “lord of those servants cometh” (25:19)
 - “When the Son of man shall come” (25:31)
- 4) Christ instructs to watch and be ready

Thematic warnings of the watchman



- 1) Many not ready when Christ returns
- 2) Christ takes longer than believers think
- 3) Despite delay, Christ IS coming
- 4) Christ instructs to watch and be ready
 - “Watch therefore” (24:42)
 - “he would have watched” (24:43)
 - “Therefore be ye also ready” (24:44)
 - “when he cometh shall find so doing” (24:46)
 - “Watch therefore” (25:13)
 - “Watch and pray”, “watch”, “watch” (Mk 13:33, 35, 37)

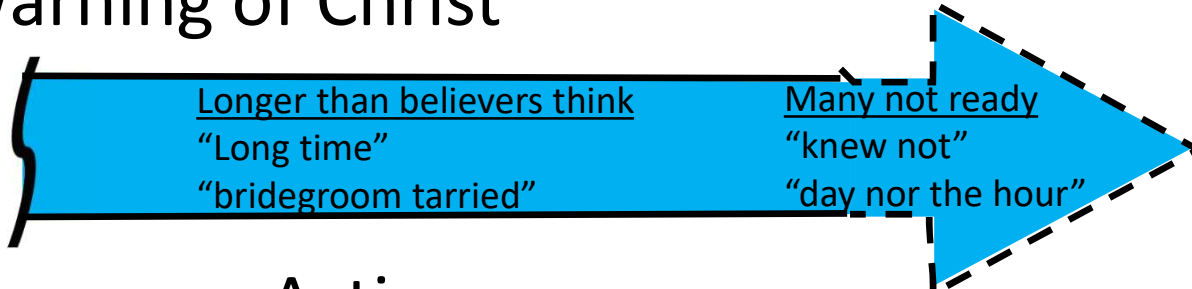
But what does it mean to “watch” and “be ready”?

Outline



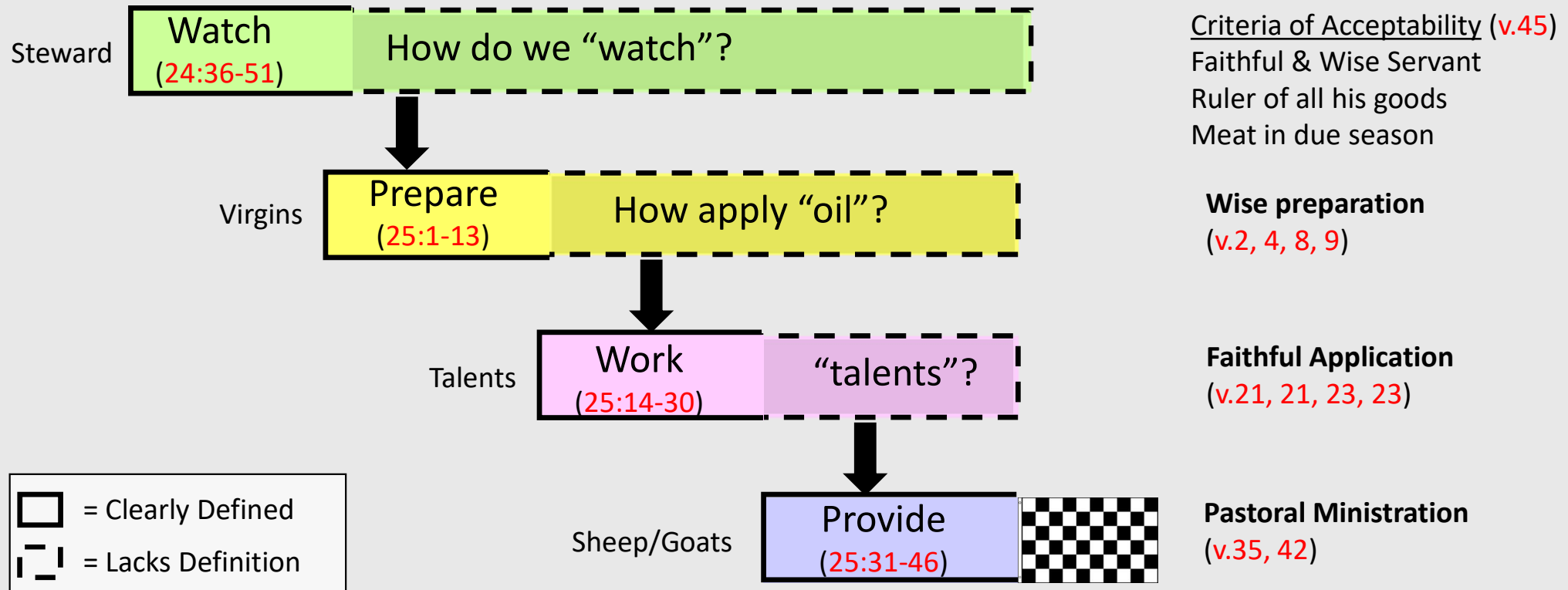
- Thematic warnings
- Necessary action
- Choice we must make

Warning of Christ



"Behold the bridegroom cometh!"

Necessary Action



The 2 Servants



Lord's Question (v.45): *Who is a faithful and wise servant...?*

- **Faithful (trustworthy)/Wise Servant (v.45-47)**
 - Action: Feeds household 'meat in due season' – right thing at right time for growth (v.45)
 - Key: Readiness is way of life... master 'finds them' doing the right things (v.46)
 - Result: Made ruler over household (v.47)
- **Evil Servant (v.48-51)**
 - Action: Harms ('smite' = wound) members of the household & lives worldly (v.49)
 - Key: Readiness is event of life... 'says in heart, my lord delays...' = *I have more time!* (v.48)
 - Result: Surprised by Jesus, Rejected and experiences extreme regret... (v.50-51)

When Jesus returns during a typical day of our lives, what will he 'find us' doing?

The 10 Virgins – how to be watchful and wise



All 10 were servants of God ('virgins' cp **2 Cor 11:2**)... but only some were prepared

- **5 Wise Virgins** (**Matt 25:4,9-10**)
 - Action: Took oil in vessels with their lamps (**v.4**)
 - Key: Readiness is way of life... 2 hands involved in the work
 - 1st hand: Carrying their shining light = good deeds (cp. **Matt 5:16**)
 - 2nd hand: Carrying their oil in reserve = personal reading, prayer, study (**Ex 27:20; Lev 24:2**)
 - Result: Found 'ready' by bridegroom and entered marriage feast (**v.10**)
- **5 Foolish Virgins** (**v.3,8,11-12**)
 - Action: Took lamps, but no additional oil (**v.3**)
 - Key: Readiness is event of life... though 'adorned' (**v.7**), their lamps burned out! (**v.8**)
 - Result: Not ready, not known by Jesus, not accepted... (**v.11-12**)

If we feel like we're burning out, what are we doing to fill our vessel?

Talents – how to be faithful (trustworthy) and rule well



What are Talents?

- Given based on ability (v.15) not to grant ability
- Only given to servants of Lord, not others (v.14) not just skillsets
- Giving them involved risk to Lord (v.21,23,26-27) could increase or squander

Suggestion: Talents are opportunities in life to use our God-given abilities (cp Lk 12:46-48)

Talents – how to be faithful (trustworthy) and rule well



All God's servants were given opportunities to be successful in working for God...

- **2 Good and Faithful Servants (v.16-17,20-23)**
 - Action: “traded” with the talents (lit. “work”) and increased 100% (v.16)
 - Key: Success is when we do the best with what we have been given (cp Mk 14:8)
 - Result: Made ruler over household and filled with joy (v.21,23)
- **1 Wicked and Lazy Servant (v.18,24-30)**
 - Action: “hid” his talent (lit. “to keep secret”) and immersed it in the earth (v.18 cp Lk 10:21)
 - Key: Gave himself excuses by blaming Jesus – too hard, I was afraid and hid (v. 24-25)
 - Result: Rejected, his opportunity is given to another, extreme regret (v.26-30)

How trustworthy are we in using the opportunities God gives us?

Outline



- Thematic warnings
- Necessary action
- Choice we must make

The 2 options



1 of 2 options is available... left hand or right hand

Rejected	Parable	Accepted
Evil Servant (24:48-49)	<u>Servants</u> (24:45-51)	Faithful (24:45-47)
Foolish (25:3,12)	<u>10 Virgins</u> (25:1-13)	Wise (25:4,10)
Wicked/slothful (25:26,30)	<u>Talents</u> (25:14-30)	Good/faithful (25:21,23)
Cursed (25:41,45)	<u>Sheep/Goats</u> (25:31-46)	Blessed of Father (25:34, 37)

Characteristics of the Rejected



- Evil Servant – says in heart “lord delays his coming”
 - Not verbalized, but feels has more time (2 Pet 3:3-4)
 - Mistreats fellow servants
- Foolish Virgins – no oil
 - Not applying self to God’s word regularly... burn out
 - Try to apply event-focused preparation... too late
- Wicked/slothful servant – Hides Christ’s talent
 - Thinks Christ expects too much... many excuses, few results
 - Invests energy in things of the present age (i.e. buries)
- Goats – disconnected from others
 - Unaware of others’ needs
 - Way of life does not involve providing for others

Characteristics of the Accepted



- Faithful/Wise Servant – active when Christ returns
 - Providing for Christ’s household (v.45)
 - Remains focused despite physical absence
- Wise Virgins – oil
 - Still surprised at Christ’s return, but “ready” (v.10)
 - Preparation began long before Christ arrived (v.4)
- Good/Faithful Servant – Increases Christ’s talents
 - Proactively work with talents given (v.16-17)
 - Recognized opportunities from God (v.20,22)
- Sheep – show care for “least” of Christ’s brethren
 - Providing for others was a way of life (v.37-40)
 - Involved in daily needs of their brethren

The Watchman's Warning – Summary



- **8 woes to the leaders**
 - The watchman is always sounding, who are we becoming in the time remaining?
- **2 Servants**
 - Foundation: When Jesus returns during a typical day in our lives, what will he find us doing?
- **10 Virgins**
 - Preparation: What are we doing to fill our vessel with oil to avoid burn out?
- **Talents**
 - Application: How trustworthy are we in using the opportunities God gives us?
- **Sheep/Goats**
 - Ministration: How active are we in providing for the needs of others around us?

Readiness is a way of life we pursue at all times. How active is our pursuit?