



## WHEN WILL CHRIST RETURN?

### "The Sheep and the Goats" Matthew 24:36-25:46

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Having outlined the uncertain certainty of His return, Jesus ended His discourse with a series of stories illustrating the surprising and far-reaching ramifications of His teaching.

#### I. The Surprising Consequences of the Unexpected Return. 24:36-25:30

- A. Surprised by the unexpected return – the "Days of Noah." 24:36-41
  - 1. The "ordinariness" of daily life – eating, drinking, marrying etc.
  - 2. The "extraordinariness" of eternal issues.
  - 3. "The "unexpectedness" of divine intervention.
- B. Surprised by an EARLIER return than expected – the two servants. 24:45-51
  - 1. Called to act wisely and faithfully.
  - 2. The unexpected return catches one out in his hypocrisy.
- C. Surprised by a LATER return than expected – the ten young women. 25:1-30
  - 1. The example of the ten young women. 25:1-13
    - a. A general invitation to participate in the celebration.
    - b. The unexpected return reveals lack of preparedness.
  - 2. The example of the talented servants. 25:14-30
    - a. The distribution of talents "according to ability."
    - b. The evaluation of service according to talent.
    - c. The unexpected return exposed underlying attitudes.

#### II. The Surprising Events of Judgment Day. 25:31-46

- A. The Son of Man will return "in His glory" – He will be recognized at last.
- B. He will take His place as King on His throne – He will be acknowledged at last.
  - 1. He will gather the nations before His throne – the great judgment day.
  - 2. He will separate the "sheep from the goats" on His right and His left.
    - a. Those on the right will participate in the kingdom.
    - b. Those on the left will be banished to "the eternal fire."
- C. He will surprise everyone by His criteria of evaluation.
  - 1. Whatever you "did for the least of my brothers you did for me."
    - a. Who are the "my brothers" – humanity, Jews, disciples? 12:48
    - b. His persecuted brothers preached the gospel of Jesus.
    - c. Receiving the messengers means embracing their message, and their Master.
  - 2. Salvation is by "FAITH EXPRESSING ITSELF THROUGH LOVE."

**Point to Ponder:** He will return – be ready!