

Handout: Lenten and Easter Study Lesson 3

Structure of Jesus' Eschatological Sermon (24:1-25:46)

- I. Introduction ~ 24:1-2
 - A. Destruction of the Temple

- II. Signs of the Coming Disaster ~ 24:3-14
 - A. False messiahs
 - B. Wars, famines, earthquakes
 - C. Persecution of the elect, false prophets and growth of sin
 - D. Gospel of the Kingdom proclaimed throughout the world

- III. The Great Tribulation of Jerusalem ~ 24:15-27
 - A. Desecration of the Temple
 - B. False prophets and false messiahs

- IV. The Parousia of the Son of Man ~ 24:29-25:30
 - A. Signs of His coming
 - B. Parable of the Fig Tree
 - C. Parable of the Two Stewards
 - D. Parable of the Ten Virgins
 - E. Parable of the Talents

- V. The Last Judgment ~ 25:31-46

The common theme of the four parables is the warning to be vigilant and faithful. The Parable of the Fig Tree is a warning that judgment is near for the Old Covenant Church
The Parable of the Two Chief Servants/Stewards

- The master is God
- His household is the Church
- The chief servants are stewards of the household/leaders of the Church
- The food to be distributed is the Eucharist and the proper time is the Mass
- The unfaithful steward is cast into Gehenna

The Parable of the Ten Virgins (see Rev 19:5-9)

- The Bridegroom is Christ
- The virgins are the Bride of Christ, the Christian communities of the Church
- The oil lamps represent God the Holy Spirit
- The wedding banquet is the heavenly wedding banquet of the Lamb (Rev 19:7, 9)

The Parable of the Talents

- The man/master is Jesus Christ
- His journey is His Ascension to the Heavenly Kingdom
- His servants are His disciples of every generation
- The talents represent the spiritual gifts God gives every believer
- The master/Christ will return in the Second Advent which will precede the judgment of His servants
- The Master's joy is eternal salvation and entrance into the life of the Holy Trinity