



## CELL GUIDE

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<b>TOPIC</b>	Steady, Steadfast & Serving the Lord (Matthew 24:32- 25:46)	<b>SPEAKER</b>	SP Daniel Foo
<b>THEME</b>	Time of the End	<b>DATE</b>	6 & 7 Mar 2021

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

This is the last of eight sermons of the series on the end-times where SP Daniel Foo expounded on the Olivet Discourse by the Lord Jesus regarding the Tribulation Years and His return known as the Second coming from Matthew 24:1-31. He explained more about His Second Coming with the 5 Parabolic Illustrations, Parable of the Ten Virgins, Parable of the Talents, and the Sheep & Goat Judgements in Matthew 24:32-25:46. The context for Matthew 24 & 25 refer to Israel, not the Church. It relates to Jesus' Second Coming, not the Rapture, and the Jews-Israel missed Messiah's first coming because of unbelief. Through these parables and illustrations, Jesus hope to warn the remnant Jews to be watchful and prepare for His second return so that they will escape final judgment and enter into blessing in the Millennial Messianic Kingdom.

## 5 PARABOLIC ILLUSTRATIONS

**1) The Fig Tree (Matthew 24:32-35)** – The fig tree is a classic representation of Israel. Just like how a person could tell the change of seasons by watching a fig tree putting forth its first leaves, Israel's return as a nation in 1948 is the first significant sign that the end time events have started. People will know that the Jesus' Second Coming is near when they see that events of the Tribulation paralleling the Seal Judgments of Revelation 6.

**2) Days of Noah (Matthew 24:36-39)** – No one knows the day and hour of Jesus' Second Coming except the Father. Just like the suddenness of the coming of the flood judgment and the unpreparedness of the world in the days of Noah, so will be the Second Coming of Jesus. In the days of Noah, people were still absorbed in worldly pursuits, paying no attention at all to the solemn warnings by Noah until God's judgment came upon them.

**3) Comparison of two men and women (Matthew 24:40-41)** – This illustration shows the separation between non-believers and believers. The believer is left on earth with the Lord to enter the Millennial Messianic Kingdom, while non-believers will stand and face judgment.

**4 & 5 ) Faithful (Matthew 24:42-44) and wise servant (Matthew 24:45-51)** – This illustration shows that one needs to be alert concerning Jesus’ coming and take conscientious action in light of the impending event. Unbelievers will not be alert because they are dead to the things of God. Israel was not prepared and ready when Christ came the first time. But the Remnant will be prepared during the Tribulation in anticipation of His return.

## MATTHEW 25

**Parable of the 10 Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)** – The 10 virgins represent the nation of Israel as a whole. The group of wise virgins represent the believing and prepared Israel (faith + works) while the group of foolish virgins represent the unbelieving & unprepared Israel. This illustration refers to how Israel will be judged on the basis of their preparedness in order to qualify to be in the Kingdom when the Bridegroom returns after His wedding.

**Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25: 14-30)** – this parable deals with the issue of faithfulness. Servants will be evaluated for how they dispensed their responsibilities. The ones who do not inherit it will be shut off from even an opportunity for entrance. This parable relates to Israel’s accountability before God for their stewardship that will occur in conjunction with Christ second coming. For Israel-Jews, character is manifested by works, the same principle will be applied in the judgment of the nations.

**Sheep and Goat Judgments (Judgment of the Gentiles) (Matthew 25: 31-46)** – this is after the second coming of Christ and all Israel the elect is gathered. The sheep gentiles are saved believers (after mid-tribulations) who have been good to the Jews during the Tribulation - defending them at risk of their lives, feeding them in desperate times, visiting them in prison. The sheep gentiles go into the Millennium. The goat gentiles are those unbelievers who persecuted the Jews, rejected them, and did no good to the Jews. Goat gentiles are judged accordingly as rebelling against God and thrown into outer darkness.

## CONCLUSION

The major themes through all these illustrations and parables found in Matthew 24 and 25 are about watchfulness, preparedness, faithfulness and wisdom.

As a church, we are reminded to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 58) as we eagerly wait for Christ, our Blessed Hope to come. To remain steady, be watchful and wise. To remain steadfast, be rooted and anchored to the Word and connected to the Holy Spirit. To serve the Lord, we must be first fully plugged into the body-life of the church.

# QUESTIONS

1. Recall the 5 parabolic illustrations cited by Senior Pastor in his sermon. List down what you have learned from each illustration. Which illustration encourages you to remain steadfast in your faith? Why?

2. The Bible tells us that we are saved by grace, justified by our faith in Christ, and are created for good works. (Ephesians 2:8-10). What are these good works? With what attitude and mindset are we to carry out the good works?

3. 1 Corinthians 15: 58 encourages us to remain steady and steadfast. Were there times that you wavered about God and your faith was shaken? How did you bounce back and hold on your trust and faith in God again?