

THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH

IVβ. Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (cont.)

Jesus Proclaims Truth (Part 2^{1h}) First Watch c. 7:30 P.M. Wednesday, 12th Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33. Lesson: **Stewardship in the Light of His Coming Continued**¹ Mt. 24:43-51; Mk. 13:34-37

Introduction: Having examined the Lessons that The Lord Jesus taught in The Temple to the multitude and His disciples during the day on Wednesday, we then considered:

I. His exit from The Temple and

II. His prophetic teaching on the journey up to and upon The Mount of Olives.

A-D. After answering the disciples three questions concerning when and what signs they were to look for to indicate the Time of His Return To Earth to set up His Kingdom, He then told The Parable of The Fig Tree followed by a description of life on Earth preceding His Return and told five more parables. It was noted that The Lord Jesus made a clear distinction between His return in the air and His Return to the Earth to set up His Kingdom.

The Lord Jesus answered the three questions that Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked Him (Mk. 13:3,4) concerning when the destruction and demolishing of Jerusalem and the Temple, His coming Parousia to set up His Kingdom, and the consummation of The Age would take place. After answering these three questions (c. 6:40-7:00 P.M.), The Lord Jesus taught a very significant and pertinent parable to His disciples, The Parable of The Budding Fig Tree.

1. The Symbols of The Budding Fig Tree and All The Living Trees.
 - a. The Fig Tree Symbolizes the Nation of Israel.
 - b. All The Living Trees Symbolize all the Reestablished Gentile Nations Significant to Israel.
2. The Sign of The Budding Fig Tree.
3. The Significance of The Time.
4. The Certainty of Termination of The Age.
5. The Secrecy of The Exact Time (Mt. 24:36 cf. v. 30c).
6. The Seriousness for Every Regenerated Disciple to Continually Watch and Be Ready (Lk. 21:34-36).

This is a serious matter and a deep concern that The Lord Jesus had for His Disciples and for us, both you and me. He urged us to supplicate, to implore, to earnestly and urgently intreat The Throne of Grace for ourselves and be faithful and persistently endure to the end.

Then we resumed our study with Our Lord's Discourse on The Conditions on Earth to occur following the sprouting of The Nation of Israel and all the nations to come into existence or to resume existence after a long dormancy. Thus it is **now** in this present time.

E. The Conditions on Earth When The Son of the (Hu)Man Returns to Earth. The Lord Jesus Christ declared Four Prevailing Behaviors Predominating upon The Earth before That Sudden Catastrophe Overtakes Humanity by the appearance of The Son of The (Hu)Man to Earth as Conquering King.

1. A Disastrous Event of Sudden Destruction (Mt. 24:37-39; cf. Lk. 17:26,27 cf. 1 Pet. 3:20).
 - a. In the days of Noah the people were occupied with material, physical, and social living with no consideration of the spiritual and eternal aspects of life, nor consideration for The God even though The Spirit of The **LORD** had been striving with mankind for two

thousand one hundred years. Then He gave 120 more years for them to hear the warning message that His messenger, Noah brought to the people.

- b. The people in Noah's day ignored the message that His messenger brought, but more they resisted persuasion to prepare for an event of which they could not conceive, never happened before, therefore it was ignored and rejected as false because they could not comprehend it. They acted ignorantly and stupidly.
 - c. The deluge (flood) arrived as The God's Messenger predicted and came to pass just exactly as what His Message was proclaimed to occur. And every human, man, woman, and child who did not heed the warning of The God's Message and call or summons to enter the ark of refuge for salvation was carried away and drowned. And so it is today for all those who do not act upon The God's Message of Truth for Salvation and Redemption, they shall perish.
2. A Dynamic Event Causing Separation and Division. The dynamic event of the Parousia 'at once' shall cause a heart-wrenching separation and eternal division of families, friends, and loved ones such as has never before been experienced. There shall be no end to this heartache.

3: A Determining Event Testing Security of Domicile from The Thief.
This third event relates to one's body as the dwelling-place of the soul and spirit of the human. Are we really conscious of the fact that the redeemed disciple-saint is not only the dwelling-place of his or her body in which dwell one's own soul and spirit, but also is the dwelling place of The God by His Holy Spirit? Therefore you and I both are responsible to secure our bodies from the thief (Sin or Satan) both of which strive for control of the human body to defile it so that The God cannot be glorified nor be free to use body until repentance, committed trust in The Lord Jesus Christ, and complete surrender to Him to serve Him as His bonds slave. And what better way to gain that control than to get us to defile our bodies with any kind of sin physically, mentally, or morally!

4. A Disclosing Event Revealing Laxity of Stewardship (Mt. 24:45; Mk. 13:34-37; Mt. 24:46-51).

“⁴⁵So-then who is the faithful and prudent bonds slave, whom the lord of-his appointed-to-position over his household-care [articul ar infinitive] in-order-to-give to-them their[articl eas pronoun] nourishment in due time? Mk.13:34 | It is | as a-foreign-traveling human[gen eric] when-abandoning the dwelling of-his, even after-giving the authority to-the bondslaves of-his and to-each-one his /work. And he-commanded the doorkeeper that he-persistently-watch. ³⁵Therefore persistently-watch&! For &you-are- not aware at-what-time The Lord of-The Dwelling is-coming: at first guard of evening^{watch from 6-9:00 P.M.] or at-midnight or at-cock-crow^[4-5:00 A.M] or ⁰in-morning-guard^[prior to dawn]; ³⁶lest by-coming suddenly, He-find you& sleeping. ³⁷Now what-things I-am-saying to-you&, I-say to-all, persis-tently-watch! Mt. 25:46^[Favored-and-joyful-because-of-all-God's-beneficent-gifts] Blessed-one+ | is | that bonds slave! whom when coming, the lord of-his shall-find doing so. ⁴⁷Amen I-am-saying to-you&, 'He-shall-appoint him over all the-possessions of-his.' ⁴⁸But if (and it may be) that /evil bonds slave say ^[locative &v]in-the heart of-his, The lord of-mine is-delaying to-come. ⁴⁹And he-of-himself-beg in-to-beat his^[articl e as pronoun] fellow-bondslaves, then to-eat and to-drink ^[in company]with the intoxicated-ones+, ⁵⁰the-lord of that /bonds slave shall-arrive ^[locative &v]in-a-day in-which he-is- not -eagerly-expecting and ^[locative &v]in-an-hour in-which he-is- not -knowing^{[from}}

experience].⁵¹ And him, he-shall-cut-into-two-pieces. And he-shall-ordain[lay down] the part-of-his [in company] with-the hypocrites. There shall-be the loud weeping and the gnashing of-the teeth” (Mt. 24:45; Mk. 13:34-37; Mt. 24:46-51 APT).

In the midst of the Parable of The Foreign-Travelling Human recorded by Mark, The Lord Jesus Christ revealed and warned against the laxity of stewardship. At the close of that parable in Mark He said, “Now what-things I-am-saying to-you&, I-say to-all[+or~people, cf. Rom. 14:9,12], persistently-watch!” (Mk. 13:37 APT). Therefore stewardship is vitally important for **All** humans saved and lost. But most pay little or no attention to it and many have never had any clear teaching about it. So that when “stewardship” is mentioned many people think that the subject of giving money to The Lord or to charity is intended. Giving money is involved in stewardship. But stewardship involves far more than just giving money to The Lord or to charity. The Lord Jesus said much about ‘stewardship.’ He put a high priority upon it, and so should we! In order to understand the full significance of the parable of The Foreign-Travelling Human we must consider The Scriptural Concept of Stewardship.

EXCURSUS: STEWARDSHIP

A. What is Stewardship?

1. Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary defines stewardship as: “the office, duties, and obligations of a steward; also: the individual’s responsibility to manage his life and property with proper regard to the rights of others.”

2. Economy is included in **responsibility!**

a. Translation of Greek word *oikonomia* (oikohnoméah) - from which the word ‘economy’ is derived.

Webster defines economy as: “1: the management of household or private affairs and esp. expenses; 2. a: thrifty and efficient use of material resources; frugality in expenditures; also: an instance or a means of economizing; b: efficient and concise use of nonmaterial resources (as effort, language, or motion) for the end proposed; 3: the arrangement or mode of operation of something: ORGANIZATION; 4: the structure of economic life in a country, area, or period; specifically an economic system.” Therefore ‘stewardship’ involves ‘economy’ which call for both efficient and careful use of all that The God has given to or allowed you and me to manage for Him.

All God’s riches, Christ’s inheritance, and all spiritual Truths are entrusted to the stewardship of all humans especially those who trust and love God’s Son (Rom. 8:17; Gal. 4:1-7; 1 Pet. 1:3,4). The legacy of heaven is ours! We cannot expect to become entrusted to share in and of Christ’s inheritance in Heaven and in His Kingdom, reigning with Him, if we do not learn to manage well **all** that God entrusts to our stewardship here and now. We shall be given portions according to how loyal, faithful, and careful we were in managing all that has been entrusted to us.

B. What is a Steward?

1. Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary defines the verb as: “to act as a steward for; MANAGE; to perform the duties of a steward,” and the noun as “one who guards, . . . a head manager in a large family (household) or a large estate or manor to manage domestic concerns . . . an officer in charge of finances” (also Webster’s

New International Dictionary, 1924).

2. The Greek noun translated ‘steward or ‘manager of affairs [house administrator, usually a promoted bonds slave] is **οικνομός** (oikohnohmóhs) which means “the manager of household or of household affairs esp. a steward, manager, superintendent (whether free-born or as was usually the case, a freed-man or a slave) to whom the head of the house or proprietor has intrusted the management of his affairs, the care of receipts and expenditures, and the duty of dealing out the proper portion to every servant and even to the children not yet of age” (Logos Bible Software).
3. The translation of the Greek word **οικνομία** (oikohnohméeah) literally is “house law.” The meaning is: the management of affairs, by a steward, a house administrator, an overseer, or a governor. The proper use of that which has been put into one’s trust, usually a promoted, trusted bonds slave who was given the responsibility to manage and preserve all his master’s possessions. In The New Testament everyone who is redeemed becomes a bonds slave to The Lord Jesus Christ and The God and as such is absolutely responsible as a steward of all that he or she possesses and receives from The God’s bountiful hand by His grace. “Then what are you having that you did not receive?” (Lk.16:1-11; 1 Cor. 4:1-7 APT).

The Lord Jesus told this parable to teach and warn of the terrible cost for not living and serving as bonds slaves and good stewards of the possessions entrusted to us. On the other hand the apostle encouraged The Corinthian saints to be found faithful to The Lord Jesus Christ as good stewards of **all that we have received** at the bountiful hands of The God by His boundless grace (1 Cor. 4:1-7).

In order to comprehend what Scriptural Stewardship involves we must be conscious of The Extent of our Accountability to The God as we kneel before The **Báymah** upon which The Lord Jesus Christ shall sit and judge the saints’ works (Rom. 14:9-12).

B. Of What Are We Responsible to Manage Well?

There are seven areas, all of which we must consider in order to comprehend all that is essential for all of us to give close attention and faithful, responsible concern.

How to Manage Your Life!

1. **The Totality of Your Life** (Job 1:21, 1 Tim. 6:7; Luke 16:1-13; 19:12-27; 1 Cor. 6:19,20 cf. v. 15; 2 Cor. 5:9-11).
- a. **Your Body - Soul - Spirit** (1 Thes. 5:23).

The God wants our whole being, body, soul, and spirit totally committed to Him first, before we give Him money and service. He begins with our bodies because what controls our whole lives is in the head of the body, the brain and then the heart. Before light of Truth is absorbed it enters the body through the eyes and the ears. Then it enters the mind in the brain where Satan can block it from going further by blinding the person. If one is not blinded, Truth enters the heart (not the blood pump, but the innermost being where the spirit resides (Isa. 57:15; Ezek. 11:19; 36:26-28; Deut. 2:30; Prov. 15:13) and lights up the whole body (2 Cor. 4:4-6), and continues residing in the human spirit to be reminded by The Holy Spirit as He will at some future time if not immediately.

(1) Proper Use - according to the order of control. Which of the

three is in control? When your spirit is in control, the order of control is Godward; when your soul is in control, the order of control is manward; or when your body is in control, the order of control is selfward. Differentiate between Heart (Spirit) and mind (soul) - (Deut. 30:1,2,6,10; 1 Chr. 28:9; 2 Chr. 6:38; 15:12; 34:31). The heart is the seat of the spirit of man (Ex. 35:21; Ps. 51:10,17; 34:18; 77:6; Ezek. 11:19; 36:26,27; 1 Kings 21:5,7; 1 Pet. 3:4).

- (2) Do not misuse any part of your body! Which part is in control? And what is your order of submissiveness? Is it first The God, then your spirit, and then your body? Or is the order for you altered putting soul or body first before The God?
- (3) Do not abuse your body! How? By overdoing it; overtaxing it; overeating; overworking; over-exercising; by use of: drugs, alcohol, tobacco, makeup, or marring it with: tattoos, earrings, studs in nose, tongue, and/or other body parts.
- (4) Do not disuse your body! How? By laziness; idleness; lack of exercise, sleeping when you should be meeting the Lord in devotions, in Bible study, in worship, or other meetings, or in not using the training available.
- (5) Do not confuse your body! How? Three ways:
 - (A) By yielding to the control of your body or soul rather than yielding your spirit to the control of The Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14) and by doing what you want to do or to be rather than what The God wants you to do or to be.
 - (B) By yielding body, soul, and spirit to other spirits (demons) to be influenced or oppressed by them.
 - (C) By living carnally as one lives before encountering a cross experience (crucifixion with Christ) while claiming to be trusting and committed to The Lord Jesus Christ (Mt. 16:24-26; Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 5:17).

b. Your Works (1 Cor. 3:9-16).

Paul used building with two kinds of building material to illustrate the works of the child of God: combustible and non-combustible building material.

- (1) Combustible building material that will burn away:
 - (A) Wood - That which is done for the good of humanity (2 Tim. 2:20; Jer. 5:14; Dan. 4:10-12).
 - (B) Hay - That which is done for the glory of the flesh (1 Peter 1:24; Isa. 40:6-8; Ps. 103:5; Jas. 1:10,11).
 - (C) Stubble - The dregs of humanity (Mal. 4:1).
- (2) Non-Combustible building material that will be purified and endure forever after burning in the fire.
 - (A) Gold - that which is done for the glory of God (1 Peter 1:24; Isa. 40:6-8; Ps. 103:5; Jas. 1:10,11).
 - (B) Silver - that which is done with the redemption of man in view (Num. 3: 45-48; 18:16; cf. Lev. 27:3).
 - (C) Precious Stones - regenerated souls won to Christ (Mal. 3:17).

Now we resume where we left off last time.

2. The Teaching (Truth) Received (1 Cor. 15:34; Mt. 7:24-27; 1 Peter 3:15).

We are responsible to manage well all The Truth (teaching) that we receive, making sure that we give it out accurately and do not hold it back in unrighteousness.

- a. Positive Examples: Ezra (Neh. 8:4) and Daniel (2:19,27) to all Israel; Paul to Timothy (Acts 16:1-3; 2 Tim. 2:2), and Timothy to

others; Paul to Timothy (Acts 16:1-3; 2 Tim. 2:2), and Timothy to others; Paul to Romans (Rom. 1:15); Paul to Luke; Paul to Titus; Paul to Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:2), and they to Apollos (Acts 18:24-26); Peter to John Mark (Acts 13:13 cf. 1 Pet. 5:13); John to Polycarp.

- b. The Scriptural Exhortation for You and Me to our household = family and servants by Moses (Deut. 6:6-8; 4:9) and to others by Paul (2 Tim. 2:2).
- c. Negative Exhortation: (We must do the opposite!)
 - (1) Do not detain (hold back) The Truth in unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18)! You received The Truth freely (“without cost” APT and without restraint). Give The Truth out freely “without cost and without restraint! The Lord saved you and me to communicate The Gospel and all of The God’s Truth to all others, and to disciple people of all nations, that is to intimately train in Truth in order that they do likewise with others (Mt. 28:19,20 APT; 1 Tim. 2:2).
 - (2) “Become righteously sober at once! And stop sinning! For I say to your[&] shame, Some have incognizance of God” (1 Cor. 15:34 APT). Some have not been instructed and disciplined. Stop sinning by your indifference and inaction in this matter of conveying Truth to others.

How to Manage Your Affairs!

3. Your Time: (Jas. 4:13-16; 1 Pet. 1:17; Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5; Rom. 13:11-14; Eccl. 3:1-8,17; 8:6; Rev. 1:10; Lev. 23:9-21; Lk. 12:40-48; Lev. 27:30; Mt. 23:23).

- a. Make time or time will make you (what you don’t really want to be)!
- b. **How your week should be apportioned!**

24 hours

 x 7 days

168 hours per week; 1/10th = 17 hours for the Lord

 -84 hrs. = 56 hours sleeping + 28 hours eating (7 x 4)

112 hrs. left

 -57 hrs. 40 +/- hrs. work + 10 + 17 hrs. travel = 67 hrs. for work

55 hours left for self.

The Lord claims seventeen hours or one day of waking time per week (Mal. 3:8-10). But then, when you give God one day, you haven’t given God anything except what He claims to be His (the Tenth). We call Sunday the Lord’s Day. But is it really His day? How do you and I spend it? If 17 hours is the tenth of the week’s hours, which He claims to be His, is the minimum in order to give a tenth, how many hours per week is your minimum? (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5; 1 Thes. 2:19).

- c. Punctuality is showing high esteem for other people and their time!

How to Manage Your Affairs!

4. Your Talents: (Mt. 25:14-30; 1 Pet. 4:10,11; Acts 11:29; Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:27,28; Eph. 4:7-13).

Your innate abilities as well as your spiritual gifts are to be used for Him and not for self, even if you use them to earn your living. Manage them well as your other assets even though seemingly intangible. We shall expand upon the Stewardship of Talents later, when we consider the parable of The Travelling Human, His Possessions, and His Bondslaves (Mt. 25:14-30).

5. Your Tasks: (1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:23,24; Lk. 12:47,48; 1 Thes. 1:6,3 cf. 2 Cor. 8:5; 5:9-11; Lk. 19:12-15).

Tasks range from eating and drinking to getting dressed, to daily chores, to secular working, to working for The Lord by means of being discipled and discipling others, to teaching a Bible class, to serving as deacons and/or elders, to pastoring youth, to all that is involved in pastoring a local church. All tasks are to be managed well with all your heart for the glory of The God.

“Therefore whether you[&] eat, whether you[&] drink, whether you[&] do anything, continually do all-things~ unto God’s glory^{[majestic radiant splendor]!}” (1 Cor. 10:31 APT).

Do you glorify The God by the way you dress and adorn your body?

“And everything what ever certain thing you[&] do, work out of soul as to The Lord and not to humans! being aware that from The Lord you[&] shall fully receive for yourselves the reward of the inheritance. For you[&] serve as a bonds slave to The Lord Christ” (Col. 3:23,24 ATP).

Even as we are subject to other humans in our occupation do we work out of soul to please The Father and our Lord to glorify The God?

“But that [/]bonds slave, who knew [from experience] the determined will of the lord of himself and did not prepare, nor even do in accord with^[to the face of] His determined [/]will, he shall be thrashed^[lit.: to skin] many [|]times[|]. But the one who did not know^[from experience], but did things~ worthy of stripes shall be thrashed ^[lit.: to skin] few [|]times[|]. Now to everyone to whom much is being given, much will be sought from alongside him. And to whom they themselves bestow^[lit.: place alongside] much, they will request exceedingly” (Lk. 12:47,48 APT).

Whether your tasks be spiritual, secular, physical, or mental, they are part of your total assets and are to be managed well for The God’s glory.

We shall suspend our study of stewardship at this time and resume it next time.

Conclusion: Today we continued to consider The Lord Jesus Christ’s teaching and prophesy upon The Mount of Olives. We highlighted His Parable of the Fig Tree i.e. Israel and all the Living Trees i.e. all the Reestablished Gentile Nations Significant to Israel. After relating this parable, He related Four Events Occurring before His return (Parousia) that warned again of the seriousness to persist to the end keeping our focus upon our beloved Lord Jesus Christ.

Then we summarized the Conditions on Earth When The Son of the (Hu)Man Returns to Earth. The Lord Jesus Christ declared Four Prevailing Events Occurring upon The Earth before That Sudden Catastrophe Overtakes Humanity by the appearance of The Son of The (Hu)Man to Earth as Conquering King: A Disastrous Event of Sudden Destruction, A Dynamic Event Causing Separation and Division, and A Determining Event Testing Security of Domicile from The Thief.

Then we reviewed the introduction to and highlighted the parable of The Foreign Travelling Human which emphasizes stewardship. It was noted that in order to understand the full significance of this parable we must consider The Scriptural Concept of Stewardship and then we launched into a condensed study of Stewardship. We raised and answered the first two obvious questions: What is stewardship and what is a steward? The answers to which are essential to every believer, since we

all must stand before The Báymah and answer for how we managed our stewardship. Then we considered the question, **Of What Are We Responsible to Manage Well?** And we noted that there are seven areas to comprehend what all is involved in that judgement for which all of us are responsible and shall be judged. This included: 1. The Totality of Your Life including your Body, Soul, and Spirit and your Works; 2. The Teaching (Truth) Received; 3. your Time; 4. Your Talents; 5. Your Tasks; 6. Your Talk; and 7. Your Treasures. We only had time to deal with the first five, The Totality of Your Life and Your Works, The Teaching of Truth that You Received, Your Talents, Your Tasks, and Your Time.

Application: Beginning today what care will you and I take of our bodies, souls, and spirits so as to be able to be joyful to meet The Lord Jesus Christ as Judge and what attention will we give to our works which count?

Dr. Fred Wittman

For next week: **Read and meditate upon: Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching** (First Watch of Night c. 7:30 P.M.): **Stewardship in the Light of His Coming Continued** (Look up and read concerning: Your Talk: Mt. 12:35-37; Eph. 4:25, 29,31; 5:4; Col. 4:6; Tit. 2:7,8; Jas. 3:1-15; 1 Sam. 2:3 and Your Treasures: Deut. 26:12; Lev. 27:30; Mt. 23:23; Gen. 14:20; 28:20-22; Heb. 7:1-10).