

## The Faithful and Wise Servant [Matthew 24:45-51]

SVBC  
March 9, 2014

On September 29<sup>th</sup> last year we left our study of Matthew after all most three years of dwelling in his Gospel. The Lord was leading us to consider "church building". There was a double meaning in that endeavor. So we spent several weeks in the book of **Ezra**, looking at the return from exile to Jerusalem and the building of the temple. From Ezra we understood the importance, or the essential step of **laying the spiritual foundation before that physical foundation can be laid**. The steps we observed were **unity...obedience...giving or given to God's work...leadership...restoration...** that in the process there would be **opposition from without**, and the even greater concern, **opposition from within...** We saw that **DISCERNMENT** is key...and that **God's Word motivates us and keeps us on track**.

We looked at 4 truths that are ours when opposition arises.

1. *God's eyes are upon us when opposition arises*
2. *Understanding and being confident in who we are and WHO we serve.*
3. *Be truthful and confident about what we are doing in His Kingdom.*
4. *Give a truthful witness of our own, personal, history with God.*

On Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> I gave the following closing statement from our "church building" series. This is a central truth gleaned from our time in Ezra.

*"The spiritual foundation must be laid first, and that necessitates that the church be ALIVE. God, by His Word and His Spirit will REVIVE the church if it is not completely alive. This will bring about UNITY in the body, preparing us to be able to lay the physical foundation of a building where ministry can take place for His glory and the great good of the people around us!"*

In the five weeks preceeding the "church building" series, and in our final weeks in Matthew (Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> thru Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>) we dwelt on the last verses of Mt.23 thru Mt. 24:1-44 and the glorious FACT that Jesus is coming again! Jesus spoke of the signs that would take place before His return ... *No one knows the day or the hour...Deceivers will be rampant...wars and famines....*

In Pt. 1 Jesus gives us 4 responsibilities in regards to His return [Mt. 23:37-24:1-8

1. We are to be watchful and alert
2. What to do in "*times of trouble*" - remind one another of the FACT that Jesus is coming again - We can comfort one another with the words of [1 Thess. 4:13-18]

3. In regards to ourselves - [2 Peter 3:11-15]
4. In regards to the world - [Rom. 5:8 2 Cor. 5:17-21] And during all of "*the times of trouble*" we need to remember Jesus' words to His disciples at well in Samaria - **John 4:35** - "*The fields are white for the harvest*". May God give us eyes to see, the ears to hear, lives that reflect the love of Christ, and mouths to speak the life-giving words of the Gospel!

Pt. 2 - [Mt. 24:9-14]- *Persevering in Perilous Paths* - (*betrayal...hatred...false prophets deceiving many...*) Jesus has told us - Mt. 24:6 - "*Not to be troubled*" and "*to endure to the end.*"

Pt. 3 - [Mt. 24:15-28] *Seeing...Fleeing...Being* (Seeing Evil...Fleeing from evil...Being [*preach the Gospel...Live the Gospel...be the fragrance of Christ...love the unlovable...seek the lost...disciple people...watching and waiting for the day of His glorious return!*])

Pt. 4 - [Mt. 24:21-31] *Being Steadfast Saints* - We saw that there will be 1. The continuing Saga of Sorrows 2. The importance of the steadfastness of the saints... and 3. We are to be joyfully anticipating the moment of His return!

Pt. 5 - [Mt. 24:32-44] - *What Are We Watching For* - {read Mt. 24:32-44}

The Faithful and Wise Servant -[Mt. 24:45-51]

Master -----→ servant (faithful and wise)

Made -----→ *the servant a ruler*

*over his*

*household*

*to give them food in due season*

*When the master returns and finds the servant doing so  
the servant will be blessed*