

Matthew 25:13-30

One of the advanced students mentioned to me recently that the value of the course was increasing it seemed to him with each semester. That has been my observation constantly. That the seminary course builds each semester, builds on each preceding one and the result is that it becomes increasingly valuable. If one takes it the 3 year course I think the third year is worth as much as the other two put together. Until comparatively recently the M.A. program was instituted, instituted with the idea that there might be lay people who might be able to get a year or two of legal absence from their work and get a little Bible study that would be of value to them.

I think that is a valuable purpose, but I've been very sorry to see individuals who were planning to devote their lives to the Lord's service being content with just the M.A. For I feel that the whole M.Div. course is worth at least double what the M.A. program is alone. If one can take the additional year and get the STM, I think that adds tremendously to its value.

When I was working on a revision for the NSRB, for 6 years we met twice a year in Chicago for several days, a committee which included individuals from a number of different seminaries and from many different parts of the country. I greatly enjoyed those discussions in which we went thru every chapter of the Bible, discussing every element of the notes, headings, etc. in them.

Wilbur Smith was one of the members of the committee. One day, Wilbur Smith, speaking in that very dramatic way which he said most everything, ~~xxxxxxx~~ he ever said, remarked as we were working on the Gospels, he said, When I was a young boy I attended one of the finest churches in this country, ~~xxx~~ but they would never preach on the story of our Lord's earthly life. They would never preach on the Gospels." He said, "I think that was terrible." I agree with him. I think every part of the Bible is God's Word to us. The Epistles are tremendously valuable, but so are the Gospels. So is incidentally every part of the OT. God gave us this Word to be our guide in this life and he has much in it that is of value for us ~~at~~ at every point in our life.

So this morning I'd like to read with you a passage from one of the Gospels. Let us turn to Matthew the 24th ch., and there in the 25th chapter rather of Matthew, I would like to look at the story that is probably familiar to most of you. Mat. 25:13--30. We read, "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like . . ." And this begins in v. 14, "Again it will be like . . . a man going on a journey ~~and~~ who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. (Reading text)

"Come and share your master's happiness"(v.21) The NIV of this particular section I don't think I had read until yesterday. I was so familiar with the KJV--"enter thou into the joy of thy Lord," that I never in all the years stopped to think exactly what does that mean? "Enterthou into the joy of thy Lord"?