

Basic Discipleship

A Course On New Testament Discipleship

Topic #8

21 “For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

36. There is coming a time of unprecedented distress such that **Jesus** can say, “**And if those days had not been cut short, no one would be saved**” (Matthew 24:22).
37. At the end of the tribulation, Old Testament saints and martyrs from “**the time of Jacob’s trouble**” (Jer. 30:7) will be resurrected & rewarded for their faithfulness.
38. Both Old Testament & the tribulation saints, who are raised to “**everlasting life**,” will be rewarded — just like God chooses to reward — His Church saints:

3 “**Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever (Daniel 12:3).**

39. When the Prophet Daniel mentions—“**Those who have insight will shine brightly**,” we know from his use of this phrase (11:33; 11:35; 12:3; 12:10) that he is referring to those who have spiritual **insight** in that they know & they teach God’s word.
40. For instance, in Daniel 11:33 he wrote that “**Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many**” which not only applies to the Old Testament & tribulation saints in view—but to believers today.
41. Your life is to display a message of “**insight**” based on the word of God by the way you live — the things you say — the values you embrace — and by the teaching of God’s truth — in the everyday circumstances of life.
42. Certainly, God gifts some believers to teach the Bible in a formal way within the Body of Christ — but all Christians — share in the “**teaching**” aspect of God’s word as a common responsibility (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 5:12).

12 **For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food (Hebrews 5:12).**

43. Daniel is reminding us that those who faithfully teach the truth of God’s word, (*cf.* Daniel 5:12; 12:10) — both by word & by deed — will be rewarded which we will see that like in Revelation 4:10—they will use to bring glory to God.
44. While these reward, will come from our faithfully using God’s word the Bible, which largely focuses on those who are saved — these rewards will also come to those who will share God’s word the Bible — with those who are lost.

**“and those who lead the many to righteousness,
like the stars forever and ever.”**

45. This part of the verse—refers to those who during the tribulation faithfully spread the good news of salvation to the lost at a great cost (Rev. 20:4)—even as we in this age are to spread “**the gospel**” — whatever the _____ may be to us (Mark 16:15).
46. It is interesting to see how both groups, made up of those who teach the Bible & of those who win people to the Lord, will *someday glorify God* much like His _____:

3 “Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever (Dan. 12:3).

47. The reward that these believers in the Savior are described as having—is likened to the “**brightness of the expanse**” & “**the stars**” because just as “**the heavens are declaring the glory of God**” even so these believers will “**shine**” just as _____ said:

43 “Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear (Matthew 13:43).

48. The Apostle Paul teaches us — that the creation above us — differs in _____:

41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory (1 Corinthians 15:41).

49. Just as stars shine with an unchanging “**glory**” above—even so those faithful in sharing God’s word & in leading “**many to righteousness**” are promised a kind of glorious, eternal honor — that will not fade — much like the stars _____.
50. It appears—that in our glorified bodies all will glorify God—but some will have a greater capacity in eternity future to burn for the Lord—just as some will _____ more “**crowns**” and rewards—to lay at Christ’s “**throne**” than other believers.
51. And just as stars vary in **brightness** & **glory**—so we will in eternity—because God tells us that when we meet Jesus—He will evaluate our service done for His glory, from the day we were saved—until the day we die—or He raptures the _____.

5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God (1 Corinthians 4:5).

52. In one sense all will “**burn to their full capacity**” but some believers will potentially have more capacity to praise and worship God than _____.
53. Specifically, “**those who have insight**” — or one might translate the Hebrew, “**those who are wise**” (ESV/NET/KJV/NKJV)—because biblically speaking, someone who has “**insight**” is a “**wise**” _____ (cf. Proverbs 10:14; 28:5).

54. And the truly “**wise**” person does not hold his wisdom within—for he cannot but _____ that wisdom & so the **YLT** renders this—“**and those teaching do shine.**”
55. And of course—if we value the people of God and our families—then we will _____ to teach them the truth of God beginning with our children—and if we value those who are lost then our wisdom will be displayed in leading them “**to righteousness.**”

4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 “You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up (Deuteronomy 6:4–7).

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls (Proverbs 11:30).

56. Daniel combines what Peter calls “**the crown of unfading glory**” (1 Pet. 5:4) _____ to pastors — and what Paul calls “**the crown of rejoicing**” (1 Thes. 2:19; Phil. 4:1) for those who faithfully share the gospel as a reward given to any faithful believer.
57. Interestingly, he informs us that every believer can potentially be rewarded for the same kind of faithful service that brings “**the crown of unfading glory**” to _____.
58. And we might expect our God — who is a God of salvation — and His Book whose theme is about salvation & His glory—to reward those who value what He _____.
59. If the most important decision in this life is to be saved by Christ (Mark 8:36-37), and if someday we want to worship God with our eternal rewards—then we need to ‘**have insight**’ into the Bible & we need to be ‘**wise**’ in winning people to _____.

18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal (2 Corinthians 4:18).

60. We are living in a day of moral compromise & militant paganism where right and wrong—have been redefined & spread—with a satanic _____.
61. Jesus’ statement—should be a great challenge to His true followers who have had their eyes opened & who are to provide the world with answers from God’s _____.
62. The biggest problems that people have in this world are sin, sorrow and death, which are all answered in the Bible—and we need to—share those _____.
63. Heaven will not be the same for every believer—for even here in Daniel 12, though found in “**kernel form**” — and with a fuller explanation — in the New Testament, there are degrees of rewards—and one aspect concerns our future praise of _____.

B. Believers will use their rewards to reign with Jesus Christ.

1. The Church is repeatedly promised — a coregency with Jesus Christ — and the “elders” in Revelation 4, who came through the **open door**, illustrate that _____.

1 After these things I looked, and behold, **a door standing open in heaven**, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things . . . **4** Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.

2. One aspect of our future rewards — concerns the various roles and different _____ of responsibility that will be entrusted to us — during Jesus’ millennial kingdom, and in His eternal kingdom, as the Lord Jesus indicates in many of His parables.
3. There are numerous passages — throughout the New Testament that teach us of the role that God’s people will someday play — whether they are Old Testament saints, church saints, or tribulation saints — when Christ rules for _____ years.
4. Daniel mentions the participation of Old Testament **saints** who will also _____ with us when he speaks of “**the people**”—a reference to the people of Israel (9:24; 12:1).

27 ‘Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to **the people** of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him’ (Daniel 7:27).

5. Isaiah also discusses the Jewish “**princes**” who will “**rule**” (Isaiah 32:1) during the coming kingdom, and Zechariah 8:23 mentions of this same future time when the Jews who have been hated—since their inception—will have an elevated _____.
6. Zechariah prophesies of the Messiah’s kingdom when people from **the nations** will recognize that God is with the Jewish people and so people will seek to _____ them.

23 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘In those days ten men from all the nations **will grasp the garment of a Jew**, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.”

7. When “**the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew**”—they are expressing a desire to be close to God’s people Israel, a time when Gentiles, mainly those born during His reign, will want to learn these Jewish saints as they seek God’s _____.
8. That Old Testament saints are involved in giving leadership with Church _____, and tribulation saints — is also seen in Jesus’ statement found in Matthew 8:11:

11 “I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

9. The fact that Jesus speaks of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob “**reclining at the table**” in the kingdom, implies the continued presence & honored status of OT _____.

10. Jesus will rule for 1,000 years — “**with a rod of iron**” — and those who participate in that rule — will have leadership over those who enter Jesus’ kingdom in their natural bodies — along with all the children — who are born during this ____.

7 “I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. 9 ‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware” (Psalm 2:7–9).

6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this (Isaiah 9:6–7).

5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne (Revelation 12:5).

11. Just like Old Testament believer—who have been raised up into their resurrection bodies will participate in Jesus’ coming kingdom, Church saints are also promised the same participation along with martyred tribulation saints who are also _____.

28 And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28).

17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17).

17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him (Romans 8:17).

2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts (1 Corinthians 6:2–3)?

12. Paul is referring here to Christ’s future kingdom where we can have—an elevated status as we participate—in Christ’s righteous & just governance—over the ____.

12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12).

26 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; 27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father (Rev. 2:26–27).

21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne (Revelation 3:21).

10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth" (Revelation 5:10).

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4).

13. All of these passages are in fulfillment of Jesus' promises for His people to _____ in His rule & authority, which should serve as a source of encouragement and as a call to faithfulness, as we await His return when He will fulfill these promises.
14. One central passage indicating how our rewards will impact our responsibility in Jesus' future kingdom concerns *The Parable of the Talents* found in Matthew ____.
15. The context concerns Christ's return when He will sit on "**His glorious throne**" & _____ from Jerusalem (Ps. 2:4-9; Is, 11:4; Jer. 23:3-6; Dan. 2:35-45; Zech. 14:1-2).
16. This judgment is distinct from the judgment of the nations—when Jesus _____ believing Gentiles termed as "**sheep**"—from unbelieving Gentiles termed "**goats,**" based on the fruit of conversion as seen in their dealings with Jews (Mt. 25:31-46).
17. The focus of *The Parable of the Talents* concerns the separation of saved Jews who are seen as true servants — from unbelieving Jews — who are eternally _____.
18. Since Jesus said — you can know a true follower "**by their fruits**" (Matthew 7:20), in this parable (Matthew 25:14-30)—those Jewish people who know the Lord are rewarded with the opportunity to rule _____ the Messiah in His future kingdom.
19. Christ is not contradicting His earlier teaching that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone—yet He is affirming that the grace that saves is never alone, because believers—both Jews & Gentiles—will show true faith by their _____.
20. While this parable concerns the Jews, this parable applies to all followers of Jesus, since all are accountable with the resources entrusted to them & because Church, Jewish & tribulation believers will ____ rule in the future kingdom (Romans 5:17).

21. Those who are faithful — will be entrusted with — greater responsibilities _____ Christ’s reign for 1,000 years on the earth (Rev. 20:4-6)—for that is the context of Matthew 25:14—as He has just said “**the kingdom of heaven will be . . .**” (25:1).
22. Some translations add those words at verse 14, though they are not in the original, but they are implied—following the preceding parable in His prophetic _____.

14 “For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. 15 “To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey (Matthew 25:14–15).

23. While the judgment of the Church as already taken place in Heaven (2 Cor. 5:10), we get insight from this parable about the criteria Jesus will use for us in that the two faithful servants—picture someone saved & then being rewarded for _____.
24. When we recount—that most Jews will not be saved until the Great Tribulation, it makes sense that this parable — would focus on the rewards — for the saved, and the judgment for the unsaved—at time at Jesus’ Second Coming to _____.
25. Matthew now describes the account that each of the servants have to _____:

16 “Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. 17 “In the same manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. 18 “But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money (Matthew 25:16–18).

26. Again, this is an accounting given by tribulation saints—who are saved after the Rapture having survived this horrible time on earth (Matthew 24:21-22) and who are now called — to give an accounting to “**the master**” namely _____.

19 “Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them (Matthew 25:19).

26. This parable illustrates from a facet of life—where an owner in Christ’s day might leave for a far country & while gone he would entrust his “**slaves**” with his _____.
28. The word “**slaves**” (**NAS/NET**) or “**servants**” (**ESV/KJV/ASV**) does not necessarily _____ believers even though they are referred to as “**his own slaves**” in verse 14:

14 “For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.

29. The Greek adjective “**own**” (*idios*) is used in this parable—in the same way it is used in John 1:11 to refer to His Jewish brethren—for the Jews are the chosen nation (Romans 9:4-5; 11:1-2)—but not necessarily those who are _____.

30. Even in the parable of the “**two sons**” (Matthew 21:28-32)—one “**son**” pictured **the ‘tax collectors and prostitutes’** who repented & were saved (21:31), while the other son pictured **‘the chief priests and the elders’** (21:23) who were _____ & in unbelief.
31. The Jewish people were accustomed to being spoken of like servants of God, or as sons of God & even rulers as God’s “**vine-growers**” over the vineyard (21:33-44), but they needed salvation & so terminology must be understood by the _____.
32. The Jewish nation had been entrusted with much—including “**the oracles of God**” (Romans 3:2), and so again the focus of the parable concerns the nation of Israel, here those who are alive & have survived the tribulation when Jesus _____.
33. With that said — while all Scripture is “**for us**” — not all Scripture is “**about us**,” nonetheless we should carefully think if & _____ this applies to Christians today.

20 “The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’

21 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

22 “Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’ 23 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master’ (Matthew 25:20–23).

34. The first two slaves—reported that they had increased their master’s “**talents**,” and so when they enter into His kingdom & their entrance comes with _____.
35. Jesus promised _____ “**I will put you in charge of many things**” (25:21&23) because they were good stewards of what they had “**according to their own ability**” (25:15).
36. God does not expect the same from all as we are not all equal in our abilities, which is why He gives some “**five talents**” & others “**two talents**” & to some “**one talent**,” but of those to whom He has entrusted more — He will someday expect _____.
37. Again, He is not contradicting His teaching that we are saved by grace through faith alone (Matthew 9:12-13; 20:1-6; John 3:14-16; Acts 26:18)—but Jesus _____ reminding his listeners of the fruit of conversion & the reward for faithfulness.

24 “And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed.

25 ‘And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’ 26 “But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed.

27 ‘Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. 28 ‘Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents’ (Matthew 25:24–28).