STORY 1/8/04

Jesus Talks About the Signs and the Day of His Second Coming - Luke 21, Matt. 25

TEACHER PRAYER

Lord, we will all die and meet our Judge and Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. When believers die, you take their souls into your bosom. O Christ, grant this to us and all believers. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Kingdom - nation, country
Famine - not enough food to eat
Pestilence - sickness, disease, plague
Adversaries - enemies
Perplexity - confused, mixed up
Apprehensive - afraid
This generation - from Christ until now (including us)

Dissipation - scattered aimlessly

OUTER AIM

Christ gives us the signs and terms of His second coming to judge the earth.

INNER AIM

By parables, Christ shows that faith (the talents, sheep) will be the only thing that will let us and you enter heaven.

BACKGROUND

Because Jesus had predicted the distraction of the beautiful temple of God's people, the disciples asked when would this take place and what would be the signs accompanying it. That was answered by the two parables, the talents, the sheep and the goats, and the various signs in heaven and earth that would precede His second coming.

STUDENT PRAYER

Lo, O Lord, help us to make proper use of the signs You gave us concerning Your second coming to judge the world. Help us be prepared for that day by keeping us constantly in Your Word so that we, too, may enter the gates of Heaven with all believers. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Jesus gives us these stories so that we may be better prepared for Judgment Day. When we look at the signs given us in these various parts; namely, wars of nation against nation, earthquakes, famines, and pestilence like the flu, Aids, polio, cancer. All of these have taken place in the world at one time or another in history. As these signs have been fulfilled, may we the more take warning of the Judgment Day that is to come soon.

Everything in this world will pass away by fire. Only God's Words will endure through this world and into eternity. Christ predicts a great persecution of believers in those last days and many wars throughout the

world as there are today. These serve as a warning to us to be prepared for Judgment Day always. That is why we must carry faith and the Word of God in our hearts always so that like the sheep and the two faithful servants we, too, may enter heaven with Christ on Judgment Day.

Because we knew and confessed Christ, God, the Father, will also know and confess us. May Christ be our badge of honor all our lives so we, too, enter eternal bliss and happiness.

APPLICATION

We can be prepared for Judgment Day by hearing, reading, and studying God's Word every day.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

II Tim 2:11-12 - This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

Heb 12:2-3 - looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Mark 4:25 - For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

I Thes. 4:16 - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

II Cor 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

HYMN CHOICES

And Will The Judgment Descend - TLH #610 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near - TLH #611 That Day Of Wrath, That Dreadful Day - TLH #612