Advent 2015 at Cairns Road BC. The Parable of the Talents

Advent 1 "NOTICING TIME"

Study Notes

During the 4 Sundays in Advent, we are looking at the parable of the talents in Matthew 25.

Why Matthew 25?

The word 'Advent' is an anglicized version of the Latin word adventus, meaning "coming". Adventus is the translation of the Greek word parousia, commonly used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. Traditionally, Advent has been used to reflect on the coming of the Messiah from these two perspectives:

1. Sharing in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah
2. Being alert for his Second Coming.

**Note**

These notes relate to the message preached at Cairns Road on Sunday 29 November. How you use the notes will depend on whether you have heard the message. Feel free to examine and discuss the subject to suit your group. The message is available on the web site.

**The Context**

When did Jesus tell this parable? See Matthew 24;1-3 and Matthew 26;1-2

Why does this make what Jesus says particularly important?

What would *you* want to say to friends or family if you knew you had only a few days left to live?

Matt 25; 14. What does 'again' imply in terms of the context?

What similarities can you see between the coming of Jesus at his birth and his coming again?

**Noticing Time**

**The big picture - God's timeline**

What kind of timeframe is eluded to in Matthew 24 and 25?

**The personal timeline**

Each parable in this section relates to individuals in the context of others. Each individual had a personal encounter with their master. What can we learn from this?

In the parable of the Talents, was the servant's perception of his master in Matthew 25;24 accurate?

What was the consequence of this perception in terms of the way he lived and what he did?

Is your perception of God accurate and in what ways does it affect how you live?

Consider the statement: "The 2 scariest lies in our world right now are (1) that you are a good person, and (2) that because God is love, he doesn't punish/call us to account".

How does this affect your understanding of the Cross, your personal salvation and your walk with God?

How might this affect your attitude to sharing about God with colleagues, friends and family?