

# A Boat in Trouble

*What are you doing under pressure? What are you doing for other people under pressure?*

Tribulation g2347. θλίψις thlipsis; from 2346; pressure (literally or figuratively). Often translated as trouble, affliction, or distress.

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*Are you taking care of the things and people in your group(s). Caring for your room, house, dishes, homework, trash or yard? Are your groups in pressure internally, or seeking others under pressure who you can reach?*

Matt 24:45 <sup>45</sup>“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?”

Matt 24:45-41 <sup>45</sup>“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? <sup>46</sup> Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. <sup>47</sup> Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. <sup>48</sup> But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ <sup>49</sup> and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, <sup>50</sup> the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, <sup>51</sup> and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

*What could you do to keep alert for things or people who may need your help?*

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*Are you learning new skills, or gathering resources to help others and being able to serve in areas where you know you might have a weakness?*

Matt 25:10 <sup>10</sup> . . . and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

Matt 25:1-13 <sup>1</sup> “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. <sup>3</sup> Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

<sup>6</sup> “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup> “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ <sup>12</sup> But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

<sup>13</sup> “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

*List two things you will learn, grow or master this year.*

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*Are you using talents, skills and abilities, to love and care like the Lord? Are you lounging around like a spoiled teenager waiting for others to work?*

Matt 25:23b <sup>23</sup> . . . you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

Matt 25:14-30 <sup>14</sup> “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. <sup>15</sup> And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he

Notes:

*The first half of Jesus’ comments on the “Trouble” to come involves the timing, or rather, the lack of predictable timing regarding Jesus’ certain return. The second half identifies traits and weaknesses of those who might be around during times of trouble and who we should be.*

*Joseph was preparing the nation of Egypt to save up for famines, yet to come, and to lend aid to his neighbors and family, in the hard years ahead.*

*Noah spend many years to build a boat, and then enter it, long before rain actually came.*

*David was faithful as a shepherd, and fearless toward giants when he was quite young — and was made King of a young nation.*

went on a journey. <sup>16</sup> Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. <sup>17</sup> And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

<sup>20</sup> “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ <sup>21</sup> His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ <sup>22</sup> He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ <sup>23</sup> His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’

<sup>24</sup> “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’

<sup>26</sup> “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. <sup>27</sup> So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

<sup>29</sup> ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

*What can you do to take real action with issues or people within your reach?*

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*Are you helping the quiet victims in plain sight? Are you looking and taking action to protect, help and rescue those who are too weak or don't have the resources to help themselves?*

Matt 25:35, 36, 40 <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

Matt 25:31-46 <sup>31</sup> “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

<sup>37</sup> “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? <sup>39</sup> Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

<sup>41</sup> “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

<sup>44</sup> “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ <sup>45</sup> Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

*What commitment will you pray with God right now, to help someone who is quietly under pressure. What specific action will you decide to do in the next week to make a change, to provide aid globally, nationally, in your community or intimately for a person you know, or just met?*

Rebecca shares her water, Rahab hides the spies and Jesus washes his disciples feet.

Jesus selects the unpopular hero for his story about neighbors, and selects a Samaritan.

*Who are in the margins — unpopular or unwanted. Difficult, or different. Are we looking to those unlike us as neighbors, (strangers, aliens) who need our help, or shall we send them away?*