

## Matthew 24:40-41 One Taken and the Other Left

Introduction: Jesus has warned that as it was in the days of Noah so would it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man. He gives this warning lest men be unprepared. In our text today He gives a second warning. When He comes one shall be taken and the other left.

### I. The light in which the text should be interpreted.

- A. It should be interpreted in the light of verse 31.
  - 1. Jesus will send out His holy angels to gather the saved.
  - 2. The saved who are dead shall be raised (resurrected).
  - 3. The saved who are alive will be raptured.
- B. The one who shall be taken is the saved person.  
(He will be caught up to meet Jesus in the air.)
- C. The one who will be left behind is the unsaved person.  
(He will be left behind for a little while on the earth.)

### II. The two illustrations which Jesus gave in the text.

- A. He said that two shall be in the field.
  - 1. They are there working together.
  - 2. He did not say whether or not they are sowing seed.  
(If He had, we would know that His coming would be in spring.)
  - 3. He did not say if they would be harvesting the crop.  
(If so we would understand His coming to be in the fall.)
  - 4. The point that He makes is that one is saved and the other is lost.  
(One prepared and the other unprepared.)
  - 5. The saved is caught up and the unsaved left behind.
- B. He said that two women shall be grinding at the mill.
  - 1. In those days all grinding was done with a hand operated mill.
  - 2. Most of it still is in that part of the world.
  - 3. The mill consisted of two stone wheels about two feet in diameter and about six inches thick.
  - 4. One stone lay flat on the ground with the other on top.
  - 5. The stone on top had a handle and was turned round and round so that the two stones rubbed together.
  - 6. The grain was fed down through a hole in the top stone.
  - 7. Two women sat with the mill between them and each turned the top stone halfway around. (Hard work, usually done by slave women.)
  - 8. The saved would be taken up and the other left behind.

### III. A third illustration recorded by Luke, Luke 17:34.

- A. Luke records that Jesus also said two would be in the same bed when one would be taken and the other left.
- B. So it would be around the world wherever the saved and unsaved are together.  
(The saved will be taken and the unsaved left behind.)

### IV. The confusion and panic of those left behind.

- A. Can you imagine the surprise of those left behind?
- B. Two men are working in the field when suddenly one is gone.  
(This kind of thing cannot just happen – but it did.)

- C. Two women sit face to face at the mill and one is gone!
- D. Two people are in bed together and one suddenly disappears.
- E. Can you imagine the panic when two people are riding down the highway and the driver disappears?
- F. Or when the pilot of a plane disappears?
- G. Or when a doctor is doing surgery and either he or the patient disappears?
- H. Or a church is having services and half the congregation is suddenly gone?  
(Or worse yet, a congregation where nobody disappears?)

V. The surprised delight of those who are caught up.

- A. Can you imagine the wondrous surprise experienced by those who are caught up?
- B. Imagine working in the field (hot, tired, and thirsty), when suddenly you are swept away by some powerful force and hurled into outer space.
  1. You are not hot, tired, or thirsty any more; but your whole being is permeated with a feeling of exuberance.
  2. You have never felt so good.
  3. You have never seen such beauty.
  4. You have never experience such thrill.
  5. You see mother, dad, grandmother, granddad, sister, etc.
  6. Best of all you see Jesus and His glory is far greater than you could have ever imagined.

VI. The great comfort and joy just to know you're saved.

- A. In that day it is going to be great to be in the number of the saved and to be caught up rather than left behind.
- B. It is a great comfort and a great joy even now to know that you are in the number.
  1. I am glad I am saved.
  2. Aren't you?

Conclusion: Wouldn't you like to be in the number? You can be. You can be saved right here right now.

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