

Jesus—Matthew 25:1-46

Three Parables

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

1. **25:1...** BRIDEGROOM--Mt 9:15; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:25; Rev 19:7; 21:2; 21:9
2. **25:8...** OUR LAMPS ARE GONE OUT—Heb 4:1
3. **25:10...** AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT—Gen 7:16; Num 14:28-34; Ps 95:11; Lk 13:25; Heb 3:18-19; Rev 22:11
4. **25:11...** LORD, LORD, OPEN TO US—Ps 1:6; 5:5; Lk 13:26-30; Jn 9:31; 10:27; 1 Cor 8:3; 2 Tim 2:19.
5. **25:13...** WATCH THEREFORE—Mt 24:42-44; Lk 21:36; Acts 20:31; 1 Cor 16:13; 1 Th 5:6; 2 Tm 4:5; 1 Pet 4:7-8; Rev 16:15.
6. **25:15...** TALENT—“Of silver contained 3,000 shekels ([Exo 38:25](#), [Exo 38:26](#)), and was equal to 94 3/7 lb. avoirdupois” [Easton].
7. **25:18...** HID—Prov 18:9; 26:13-16; Hab 1:2-4; Heb 6:12; 2 Pt 1:8.
8. **25:24...** THE ONE TALENT—“Our Lord placed the example of negligence in him to whom the least was committed, probably to ‘intimate’ says Doddridge, ‘that we are accountable for the smallest advantage with which we are entrusted; but it cannot imply that they who have received much will ordinarily pass their account best; for it is too plain, in fact, that most of those whose dignity, wealth, and genius give them the greatest opportunities of service, seem to forget that they have any Master in heaven to serve, or any future reckoning to expect; and many render themselves much more criminal than this wicked and slothful servant who hid his talents in the earth” [TSK].
9. **25:25...** I WAS AFRAID—2 Sam 6:9-10; Prov 26:13; 2 Tm 1:6-7; Rev 21:8.
10. **25:32...** ALL NATIONS—Some commentators say that this *means* the Jews, (e.g., John MacArthur). Actually, what it means is ALL NATIONS. There is a fundamental rule of biblical Hermeneutics which states that we should take the Bible’s statements to be literal unless there is some good and compelling reason (such as a contradiction of a clear passage) not to do so. Many commentators allow their devotion to the premillennial system to cloud their interpretation of plain passages.
11. **25:33...** RIGHT HAND—“The right hand is the place of honor, and denotes the situation of those who are honored, or those who are virtuous. See [Ecc 10:2](#); [Eph 1:20](#); [Psa 110:1](#); [Act 2:25](#), [Act 2:33](#)” [TSK].

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: The Period of the Christ. Last week before the crucifixion.

III. Summary.

The marvelous Parable of the Ten Virgins is surely one of the most beautiful and thought-provoking parables in the Bible. The lesson is so clear and powerful! Who wants to be like the five foolish virgins who were not prepared at the time of the coming of the bridegroom and were thus shut out from the wedding feast? Lest anyone should miss the lesson of the parable (i.e., PREPAREDNESS), Jesus draws the conclusion for us (“therefore”) in verse 13.

Likewise, the Parable of the Talents is an important and beautiful parable. How thankful can we be that the parable teaches us that the Lord doesn’t expect anything impossible of us—JUST FAITHFULNESS! I do not have to produce as if I were a five-talent man if I have not the

five talents. The talents were given out to each one “according to his several [i.e., his own] ability” (v. 15). The great Judgment Scene which is so masterfully “painted” for us by Jesus should serve as powerful motivation to make wise decisions so as to be separated to the right with the sheep (vv. 31-46).

IV. Outline.

1. Parable of the Ten Virgins (Mt 25:1-13).
2. Parable of the Talents (Mt 25:14-30).
3. The Judgment Scene Comparison—May or may not be a “parable” (Mt 25:31-46).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ Two were told the same thing because of their faithful service.
02. _____ The wise virgins did not sleep as they waited for the bridegroom.
03. _____ Heaven and Hell are described as lasting the same amount of time.
04. _____ Talents were distributed according to how well the servants were liked by the lord.
05. _____ The exchangers could have helped the one-talent man be fruitful.

Matching

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 06. _____ In outer darkness | A. Foolish Virgins |
| 07. _____ Did not clothe the Lord | B. Wise Virgins |
| 08. _____ Gained more | C. Five-Talent Man |
| 09. _____ Were ready | D. One-Talent Man |
| 10. _____ Said, “Give us of your oil.” | E. Sheep |
| | F. Goats |

Fill in the Blanks

11. “_____ _____ for ye know neither the _____ nor the _____ wherein the Son of Man cometh.”
12. Two things that will be in OUTER DARKNESS: _____ and _____ of _____.
13. “But he answered and said, verily I say unto you, I _____ you _____.”
14. The one-talent man went and _____ in the _____.
15. Sheep were set on the _____; goats on the _____.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week’s handout

ANSWERS to Lesson 01-93... [01—False, Mt 24:34; 02—False, Mt 24:3; 03—True, Mt 24:33; 04—False, Mt 24:12; 05—True, Mt 24:24; 06—c, Mt 24:16; 07—b, Mt 24:17; 08—c, Mt 24:19; 09—a, Mt 24:8; 10—c, Mt 24:34; 11—pass, away, Mt 24:35; 12—heed, deceive, Mt 24:4; 13—false, prophets, Mt 24:11; 14—see, doors, Mt 24:33; 15—before, Mt 24:25.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto...** (Mt 25:1). Anytime this expression is seen in the New Testament, we ought to perk up and listen very carefully. We should be greatly interested in learning about the kingdom. This particular parable stresses the importance of being prepared. Anyone who does not prepare for the coming judgment (which is the subject matter in this context, Matthew 24-25), is acting like the foolish virgins and will find themselves OUTSIDE the door, wanting inside.

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2. **--While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept** (Mt 25:5). It is important to keep in mind here that there are two different types of sleeping being done. One was the sleep of the prepared. Their lamps were burning and they had oil in reserve to replace what was being used up. The other was the sleep of the UNPREPARED. They had seen the preparation already made by the wise virgins (the extra supply of oil)—why did they not go out immediately and purchase more oil, which would change their state into that of being PREPARED? The opportunity was there for the foolish ones in the delay of the bridegroom, but these unprepared ones chose to remain in that condition, even with having a demonstration before their very eyes by the prepared ones. The great lesson of the parable is to USE TIME STILL AVAILABLE to get PREPARED. The foolish virgins are examples to us of how NOT to use our opportunities.
3. **...Well done, thou good and faithful servant...** (Mt 25:21, 23). Both of the men who had used the ability they had to be productive heard a sweet message that recognized their faithfulness. Such will be the basis upon which such SWEET WORDS will be spoken on Judgment Day! Jesus is teaching us to be faithful with the blessings He bestows upon us. I may not have as much ability as some other person, but neither will it be expected of me to be as productive by my Lord (as seen clearly in the repetition of these words at verse 23). These are the only words that any right-thinking person will want to hear on that great day!
4. **...enter thou into the joy of thy Lord...** (Mt 25:21, 23). We can connect this JOY of the Lord with the life of walking in the Spirit, which produces the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, one of the elements of which is: JOY (Gal 5:22). Those who produce the fruit of the Spirit will be the ones who enter into this eternal joy.
5. **...thou wicked and slothful servant** (Mt 25:26). It SURELY needs to catch our attention that our Lord considers slothfulness to be wickedness. Search these Scriptures—Prov 10:4; 6:6-11; 12:24, 27; 13:4; 14:23; 18:9; 28:19; Mt 20:3-4; 25:24-30; 2 Th 3:10-11; 1 Tim 5:13; Titus 3:14; Heb 6:12.
6. **...outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth** (Mt 25:30). We learn from our Lord about what hell (eternal punishment) will be like. It will be some different kind of flame that burns in hell than anything we know of because there will be no light as the flames with which we are familiar cause. The pain of this place of punishment is also spoken of graphically by our Lord. By the use of the figure of GNASHING TEETH, we have to imagine a tooth-grinding kind of constant pain. Anyone who truly studies and ponders the place of torment will do all he needs to do to avoid it!
7. **...inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me** (Mt 25:40 + 45). Jesus takes PERSONALLY what we do with the opportunities we have to serve and whether or not we do as we could.
8. **And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal** (Mt 25:46). Many surveys have been taken which show that a lot of people believe in heaven who do not believe in hell. Other people believe that the time element of the two destinies differ. Our Lord here uses the very same work (in the Greek) to describe each destiny! There is such a thing as everlasting punishment! We had better believe it!

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

I W S X C D E R F V N I T N E W A T C H
M K N B V C X Z L K J H G F D I S A O P
U Y N T R E W Q L K H G F D S S A M N B
V F R O P E N T O U S R F V R E A D Y B
N M L K W U J M N H Y T G B V F R E D C
X S W Q A Y Z X S W E D C V F R T G B N
H D Y H N M O U J R U O H E H T R O N Y
J O E D C V F U V F R Y M U J M N H Y A
I O U T G B V F N C D O E C T G B N H D
W R S H U T K J H O O G F D A D S A B E
G T Y H N M J U I R T I U J M M N B V H
T N O T E N O U G H R F V C D E E W S T
X C V B N L K E G F D S A U Y T R E W R
C V B D F G D E R T Y U I K J H N M L E
W E R C V I T G B N H Y U J M K P I O H
E D C X R X S W E D C V F R T G B Y H T
C D E B R F V B T B Y H N M J U I K M I
W S X C D E R F V U B G T Y H N J U I E
X D R T G B V F R Y E D V B W W Y H N N
C D E R M A R R I A G E R F V B G D R L

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Matthew 25:9-13--⁹But the **wise** answered, saying, *Not so*; lest there be **not enough** for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and **buy** for yourselves. ¹⁰And while they went to buy, the **bridegroom came**; and they that were **ready went in** with him to the **marriage**: and the **door** was **shut**. ¹¹Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, **open to us**. ¹²But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, **I know you not**. ¹³**Watch** therefore, for ye know **neither the day nor the hour** wherein the Son of man cometh.