

Matthew 25

Matthew 25:1-30 - The King's Sudden Arrival!

Scriptures:

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be

likened to ten virgins who took their lamps

and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Notes:

This is a parable. Most of the details are not meant to be allegorized.

Chapter 25 begins with two parables that have roughly the same message – be ready – Jesus is coming back!

There has long been a debate about whether these parables apply to the church or to the remnants of Jews after the Rapture of the church. Because it is not clear, we should apply it to the church. After the Rapture the Jews who are left on the earth must apply it to themselves.

"Israel in the Tribulation will know that Jesus' coming is near, but not all will be spiritually prepared for it."
Louis Barbieri – Bible Knowledge Commentary – page 80

A Jewish wedding was unlike anything most of us have experienced. Most marriages were arranged by the parents. A betrothal party would make the arrangement official. The wedding would be planned but the exact date might not be known. The bride would be advised when the time approached and so she had to make herself ready. Then she would wait for the bridegroom to come get her. What complicates this parable is the bride is not mentioned. Is the bridegroom coming to get the bride or is he bringing her to his home for the wedding ceremony?

Whenever studying and interpreting parables we must look for the one thing it is trying to communicate. Trying to force all the details to make sense can distract away from that.

Scriptures:

2 Now five of them [✓] were wise, and five *were*

Notes:

G5429 – “wise (judicious) adjs. — marked by the exercise of good judgment or common sense in practical matters.”

foolish.

G3474 – “foolish adj. — devoid of wisdom or good sense or sound judgment.”

Scriptures:

3 Those who [✓] *were* foolish took their [✓] lamps

Notes:

and took no oil with them, [✓]

Scriptures:

4 but the wise took oil in their [✓] vessels with

Notes:

their lamps.

Scriptures:

5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they

Notes:

G5549 -

all slumbered and slept.

Scriptures:

6 "And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold,

Notes:

the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet

him!'

Scriptures:

7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed

Notes:

their lamps.

Scriptures:

^F 8 And the foolish said to the ^W wise, 'Give us ^F

Notes:

^W *some* of your oil, for our ^F lamps are going out.'

Scriptures:

^W 9 But the wise answered, saying, '*No*, lest

Notes:
Oil is often used symbolically of the Holy Spirit.

there should not be enough for ^W us and ^F you;

but go rather to those who sell, and buy for

^F yourselves.'

Scriptures:

10 And while they ^Fwent to buy, the bridegroom ^B Notes:

came, and those ^W who were ready went in with

G2092 –
prepared.

^Bhim to the wedding; and the door was shut.

Scriptures:

11 “Afterward the other virgins ^Fcame also, Notes:

saying, ‘Lord, ^BLord, ^Bopen to ^Fus!’

Scriptures:

12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say

Notes:
Lack of preparedness is a lack of love.

to you, I do not know you.'

G1492 – "to know (experientially) v. – to know or have knowledge about (someone or something); normally as acquired through observation or the senses."

Scriptures:

13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the

G1127 – be alert, stay awake.

Notes:
The main message of this parable is that Jesus is coming back, and we don't know when that will be. As pre-Rapture believers, the message is to be wise, and be alert. It has been almost two-thousand years since Jesus said this and some people are spiritually drifting off to sleep.

day nor the hour in which the Son of Man

We must regularly remind ourselves and each other that Jesus is coming back, and it might be soon. No matter how long it takes for Him to come back, we must keep reminding ourselves and others to be spiritually awake to that truth.

is coming.

G2064 -

The next parable reminds us of what else we ought to be doing while we watch and wait for Jesus to come back.

Scriptures:

14 "For *the kingdom of heaven is* like a man^M

traveling to a far country, *who* called his own^M

servants^S and delivered his goods to them^S.

Notes:

This parable probably applies best to the pre-Rapture church but can also apply to the Tribulation period. Jesus is in heaven with the Father but someday He is going to come back.

Just as with the last parable, we shouldn't try to force meaning upon all the details. Many are there for rhetorical purposes.

For example, many like to interpret the man in this verse to be Christ. Notice that the word 'man' is not capitalized.

In this parable, the man, or master of the house, is going on a long trip. He gives his goods, his possessions and wealth, to his servants to use and work with while he is gone. The implied purpose was that they would use those resources to get more wealth for the man while he was gone.

Scriptures:

15 And to one he gave five talents^M, to another^S

two², and to another one¹, to each according to

his own ability; and immediately he went on a

G1411 -

journey.

Notes:

'talents' – Approximately 70 pounds. This could be gold, silver, or brass. It was probably silver. It was a lot of money.

The man distributed his goods based on the ability of the servant. The Equity part of DEI would object to this.

Scriptures:

16 Then he ⁵ who had received the five talents

Notes:
That is a 100% increase.

went and traded with them, and made

another five talents.

Scriptures:

17 And likewise he who ² *had received* two

Notes:
That also is a 100% increase.
Humanly speaking, we would say
that the first one did better because
he earned 2 ½ times as much as the
second one.

gained two more also.

Scriptures:

18 But he who had received one went and dug

Notes:

That is a 0% increase. Humanly speaking, at least he didn't lose it.

in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

Scriptures:

19 After a long time the lord of those servants

Notes:

'lord' = master or man of the household.

came and settled accounts with them.

20 "So he ⁵ who had received five talents came

and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord,

^M you delivered to me ⁵ five talents; look, I have ⁵

gained five more talents besides them.'

Scriptures:

21 His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and

Notes:

The lord is pleased with his performance. He gives the servant more responsibility and invites him to celebrate with him.

faithful servant; you were faithful over a few

things, I will make you ruler over many things.

Enter into the joy of your lord.'

22 ²He also who had received two talents

came and said, 'Lord, you ^M delivered to me ^M two

talents; look, I ² have gained two more talents

besides them.'

Scriptures:

23 His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and

Notes:

The two-talent servant receives the same reward as the five-talent servant, even though the five-talent servant earned two and a half times as much.

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.'

24 "Then he who had received the one talent

came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard

G4642 – violent,
harsh, hard, cruel,
demanding,
difficult.

man, reaping where you have not sown, and

gathering where you have not scattered

seed.

Scriptures:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your

G5399 -

Notes:

If he actually had been afraid of the master, he would have put his money in the bank. This is just an excuse to try to get out of the trouble he is in.

talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have

The first servant was given five talents because he was able to work with five talents and earn five more. The second servant was given two talents because he was able to work with two talents and earn two more. The third servant was given one talent because he was able to work with one talent and earn one more. Instead, he chose not to risk it.

what is yours!

Scriptures:

26 "But his lord answered and said to him,

Notes:

'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I

G4190 - evil, bad, morally corrupt, worthless, guilty.

G3636 - idle, not active.

reap where I have not sown, and gather

where I have not scattered seed.

Scriptures:

27 So you ought to have deposited my money

Notes:

The servant had been unfaithful. He made excuses but there was no excuse.

with the bankers, and at my coming I would

have received back my own with interest.

Scriptures:

28 So take the talent from him, and give it to

Notes:

him who has ten talents.

Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 -
...each one's work will
become clear; for the Day
will declare it, because it
will be revealed by fire; and
the fire will test each one's
work, of what sort it is.
14 If anyone's work which
he has built on it endures,
he will receive a reward.
15 If anyone's work is
burned, he will suffer loss;
but he himself will be
saved, yet so as through
fire.

29 '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.

Notes:

This is a call to faithfulness. When we stand before God, everything we have done in this life will be examined (1 Corinthians 3:13-15). Faithfulness will be the test of what is burned up versus what passes through the fire of God's examination. Were you faithful to use what God gave you to serve Him in the opportunities He put before you?

God has chosen to use people to accomplish His will on this earth. He then equips them with practical abilities and spiritual gifts that enable them to serve Him. He then places them where those abilities and gifts are needed to glorify God and bless people. Some are like the five-talent servant, receiving more than others. Some are more average like the two-talent servant who still is expected to serve God where he has placed them with whatever He gives them to work with. And the most common are probably like the one-talent servant, receiving something they can use to serve God. The results of each of God's servants is going to be different based on countless factors, but God's expectation is exactly the same – be faithful!

Jesus closes this parable with a terrible warning about what happens to those who are unfaithful.

Scriptures:

Romans 1:18-21 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Matthew 22:37-40 - "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" 37 Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the

G888 – unworthy.

outer darkness. There will be weeping

G4655 – "evil realm ⇔ darkness n. — the sphere dominated by evil, sinfulness, and ignorance of God and His ways; understood as the absence of light."

and gnashing of teeth.'

In the first parable we were exhorted to be watchful. Stay alert to the fact that Jesus will be coming back, maybe very soon. Don't allow apathy or discouragement to dull our passion to be with Jesus.

The second parable called us to be faithful. Use whatever God has given you as well as you are able. Don't worry about what others are or are not doing – you serve God to the best of your ability with what He has given you for that purpose.

What would you do if you knew Jesus was coming back tomorrow? We don't know when He will come back, but shouldn't we be doing those things if we thought He was. Be watchful and be faithful – Jesus is coming back!

Notes:

Everyone on earth was created by God with His image and for the purpose of worshipping, loving, and serving God. There is no excuse anyone will be able to give for refusing to do that. Turn to (Romans 1:18-21).

The man in the parable gave the one-talent servant what he needed to serve the lord of the house. He refused to do and then made excuses, even blaming the lord of the house.

God has given every person what they need to serve Him. It begins by humbling ourselves to His authority and receiving the gift of salvation and forgiveness of sins. Most will bury that gift and make excuses for not being saved. That makes them unprofitable servants and unworthy of the master's care. The destiny of those unworthy servants is eternal separation from the Master.

The grace of God is amazing. An unworthy servant can repent and be forgiven. But there is an expiration date on God's gracious offer of salvation. You must accept salvation in this life and before Jesus comes back.

The message of these two parables is simply – be watchful and be faithful. If you are a true believer, you don't need to concern yourself about being sent into the outer darkness of weeping and gnashing teeth.

Instead, we are focused on loving God. Jesus said this when asked what the greatest commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) was. The most important thing you can do with your life is to love God with your whole being and second, love others as you do yourself.

Do you love God? Does it fill your heart with joy that your Savior Jesus is coming back for you? Are you excited about His coming and looking forward to it more than anything else in your life?

How do we show God and Jesus how much we love them? In Matthew 22, Jesus put loving God and loving others on the same level. We show God how much we love Him by loving our neighbor, those people God has placed around us. God has equipped each of us with experiences, abilities, and spiritual gifts for the purpose of loving Him and loving others.

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