

Love Letters Before the Cross: Love That Warns

(Matthew 25:1–46) **Main Idea:**

Jesus lovingly warns His followers to stay ready, stay faithful, and stay loving until He returns.

1. Entrusted with the Kingdom (Matthew 25:14–15)

“It’s like a man going on a journey who called his servants and entrusted his possessions to them.”

- Everything we have belongs to God.
- A *talent* = 20 years’ wages — a lifetime of opportunity.
- We are *entrusted*, not *entitled*.
- Salvation isn’t the finish line—it’s the starting line.
- God has placed something in your hands that carries eternal purpose.

 James 1:17; 1 Corinthians 4:2

Application: Everything I have belongs to God, and everything God has given me carries eternal purpose. You’re not too old, too young, too late, or too limited to be faithful.

2. Faith That Works (Matthew 25:16–23)

- The faithful servants acted *immediately* and *trustingly*.
- Their faith produced movement; their trust produced obedience.
- The Master’s praise wasn’t about *results*, but *faithfulness*.
- The size of your faithfulness matters more than the size of your platform.

 James 2:17; Colossians 3:23–24

Application: Faith that waits, works. The waiting Church must become the working Church.

3. Fear That Hides (Matthew 25:24–30)

- The third servant buried what was given out of fear, not faith.
- He didn’t lose salvation—he never truly knew the Master.
- His actions revealed a distant relationship, not a loving one.
- A distorted view of God leads to distorted living.
- No activity means no trust; no trust means no true relationship.

 1 John 4:18–19; Hebrews 10:38–39

Application: The absence of obedience reveals the absence of relationship.
You weren't redeemed to stay buried—you were redeemed to bear fruit.

The Complete Picture of Discipleship (Matthew 25:1–46)

Parable	Warning	Call
Ten Virgins (vv. 1–13)	Distraction	Stay Awake
Talents (vv. 14–30)	Inaction	Stay Faithful
Sheep & Goats (vv. 31–46)	Indifference	Stay Loving

 *John 15:5; Revelation 2:4–5; Ephesians 2:10; 1 John 3:17–18*

Together They Say:

Don't waste your salvation by waiting for heaven.
The same grace that saves you empowers you to serve.
The same faith that redeems you calls you to reproduce.

 *Ephesians 5:14–16*

Conclusion – Love That Warns

- Jesus' final parables are a *plea of love*, not condemnation.
- We were not saved to sit—we were saved to serve.
- Heaven isn't the finish line; it's the reward for a life well spent.

 *Hebrews 10:23–25*

“Stay awake. Stay faithful. Stay loving. I'm coming back for you.”
The King is coming—may He find us burning bright, investing boldly, and loving deeply.

Reflection & Response – “Make Room”

1. Have I drifted from intimacy with Jesus?
2. Have I buried what God entrusted to me?
3. Does my faith overflow in love for others?
4. Am I living for the Kingdom now—or just waiting for heaven later?