

Matthew 25

Jesus

- Apostles/Disciples question Jesus re. Israel's future

Matthew 24:3b... "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

They could not understand... If Jerusalem/Temple is destroyed...how will God keep His promise to Jews w/regard to inheriting Land?

They wanted to know...What events will usher in the establishment of the Promised Kingdom?

- **Matthew 24** Jesus begins to answers their questions...

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. 1 st 3.5 Yrs. | Tribulation | Beginning of Sorrows |
| 2. Division | Mid Tribulation | Abomination of Desolation |
| 3. 2 nd 3.5 Yrs. | Great Tribulation | Time of Jacob's Sorrow |

- **Matthew 25** Jesus continues to answer their questions

1. **Interpretation of Mat. 25:** Again, all Jewish
2. **Application:** Universal; i.e. **Be Ready to meet Jesus**

- **To Us** **Be ready for the Rapture** Make sure you are born again
- **To Them** **Be ready for 2nd Coming** Make sure you are born again

1. **Those not ready** at the Rapture will go into Tribulation: Make-believe Church
2. **Those not ready** at the 2nd Coming/take the Mark will go to damnation

Application Universal and Simple...
Be Ready to meet Jesus by being filled with His Spirit

Romans 8:9b... Now if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**

I. Parable of the Wise/Foolish Virgins

- Wedding in Heaven leading to Wedding Feast on Earth
 - 1. **Bride in Heaven** Finishing Wedding/honeymoon w/ Jesus
 - 2. **Tribulation on Earth** 6+ years waiting for Jesus who is about to leave w/Bride
- No inspired Chapter break between Matthew 24/25

Matthew 24:50 [Evil Servant who begins to bear fellow servants] 50 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, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Look at readiness to meet Me like this...

Like Ten Virgins [bridesmaids] all w/ Lamps going to meet bridegroom about to arrive
Custom of that day...After the marriage bridegroom and bride arrive for Wedding Feast

- **FACT:** Jesus is coming back to Earth...
 1. From Heaven
 2. With His Bride
 3. For the **Marriage supper on Earth**

Those that meet the Groom must be ready; i.e. Saved/Filled with Spirit

Luke 12:35 Let your waist be girded and **your lamps burning**; 36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will **return from the wedding**, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. 37 **Blessed are those servants whom the master**, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and **will come and serve them.**

Bridegroom/Bride leave after Wedding in Heaven for the Wedding Feast on Earth

Ten Virgins [Bridesmaids] take lamps/leave to meet the Bridegroom...

Paraphrase: During the last part of the Great Tribulation there will be many Jews waiting for the Messiah. All will expect to be invited to the feast...not all will be ready

2Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took **no oil with them**, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

- **10 Virgins:** Nation of Israel
- **Oil:** Spirit of God
 1. **Wise Virgins** Lamps filled w/Oil
 2. **Foolish Virgins** Lamps...but with no Oil...

I'll wait to be Filled/Saved.

I'll live my life as I please and when/if Jesus really comes...then I'll change

5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they **all slumbered and slept.**6 "And at midnight a **cry was heard:** 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 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.'10 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.**

Universal Application...Be Ready

When that door is once shut, it will never be opened. There are some who dote and dream

about an opening of that door, after death, for those who have died impenitent; but there is nothing in the Scriptures to warrant such an expectation. Any 'larger hope' than that revealed in the Word of God is a delusion and a snare." [Spurgeon]

Genesis 7:16 [Noah/family went into the Ark...] went in as God had commanded him; and the **Lord shut him in.**

- The Lord shut Noah in/shut those who did not believe out...

Not all waiting for the Wedding Feast will be eating that day

Matthew 8:11 [Centurions faith] ... I say to you that many will come from east and west, [Gentiles] and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the **sons of the kingdom will be cast** out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

All Sleeping ...At Midnight a Cry was Heard

- **While those w/out oil searched...the door was shut**

Hebrews 2:3 ...how shall we escape if we neglect **so great a salvation** [Paid in full]

Hebrews 4:6 Today, if you will hear His voice, **Do not harden your hearts.**

2 Corinthians 6:2b... now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation.**

- We are not promised tomorrow
- **Point of no return?** Harden our hearts to His Word/Unable to hear

11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'
12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, **I do not know you.**'
13 "**Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.**

- When you meet Him with no oil... **it will be too late**

It is no easy matter to go and rouse up the seller of oil when the midnight hour has struck. O you who are **putting off repentance** to a dying bed, you are foolish virgins indeed! Your folly has reached the utmost height. You will have more than enough to do, when you lie there with the death-sweat cold upon your brow, without then having to seek the grace which you are neglecting to obtain today, **but which you will value then.** [Spurgeon]

- **Exhortation to Jews as well as others?** Watch.
 1. Don't miss this Feast by not trusting Jesus. **For the Jews...**
 2. Exemplified in leaving Jerusalem when AC approaches and...
 3. How treat fellow Jews; i.e. the **least of these My Brethren**

SUMMARY Parable of the Wise/Foolish Virgins

- All nations will be at this feast... **and the Bridegroom will serve**

Isaiah 25:6 And in this mountain **The Lord of hosts will make for all people** A feast of choice pieces, A feast of wines on the lees, Of fat things full of marrow, Of well-refined wines on the lees. 7 And He will destroy on this mountain **The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations.**

Luke 12:37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that **he will gird himself** and have them sit down to eat, and will come **and serve them.**

- **Be ready...** Filled and doing God's work

Some think that readiness for Jesus' return is a very spiritual and abstract thing. It really isn't...it is a matter of being about our business for the Lord. In light of [the following parable], we must ask ourselves: What have we done with our knowledge? Our time? Our money? Our abilities? The sins of omission [what we don't do] may ultimately be more dangerous than the sins of commission [what we do]. [Guzik]

II. Parable of the Talents

14 **"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. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

Look at what I expect you to be doing as you wait for Me like this...

- **Like a man who left to go to a far country; Heaven**

1. Before He leaves, He entrusts talents to invest; in this case... in **people**

In the application of this parable it is appropriate to see these talents as life resources – such as time, money, abilities, and authority. [Guzik]

2. According to their ability He gave what they need to grow His business
3. Leaves with **no one knowing when He will be back...**

16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made **another five talents.** 17 And likewise he who had received two gained **two more also.**

- **First two double Master's investment**

18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 "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.' 21 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.'** 22 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.' 23 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.'**

- Two who invested w/ what was given heard these words

Well done, good and faithful servant...Enter into the joy of your lord

- **First Servant:**

1. Dug hole/Hid what was given
2. Didn't believe Master coming back...**but He did come back**

24 "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. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. **Look, there you have what is yours.**'

- **Excuses...blames the Master**

1. I knew you were a hard man; i.e. selfish man
2. Reap where you have not thrown seed
3. I hid your stuff to keep it safe...Here it is!

Claimed he was afraid...yet exemplified **no fear of his Master**

- **Master** uses servants' own words to condemn him...

26 "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. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.'

- How did the excuses hold up? Not so well...

1. **Wicked:** Rebelled against my command
2. **Lazy:** Could have done something with what you were given?

Those who don't work for the Lord, or pray, or don't evangelize because God is sovereign condemn themselves by their laziness. [Poole]

28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has **ten talents**. 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. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- **Wicked/Lazy/Unprofitable servant**

1. **Cast into outer darkness**
2. **Eternal existence?** Weeping/Gnashing of teeth/regret/rehearsing

The true lover of men's souls is he who does not deceive them. [The one...] that paints the miseries of hell **as though they were but little** is seeking to murder men's souls under the pretense of being their friend.

- Doesn't matter how much talent you have

- Doesn't matter how much Scripture you know...

Are you bearing good fruit exemplified by your love for God's people?
The fruit we bear/good/bad is a sign of our eternal destination...

- **Bearing fruit using what God has given...**

Matthew 3:10 ... every tree which does not bear **good fruit** is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 7:16 You will **know them by their fruits**. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? **17** Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. **18** A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

Matthew 13:23 [Ready heart] hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and **produces**: some a hundredfold, sixty, some thirty."

John 15:8 By this My Father is glorified, that you **bear much fruit** so you will be My disciples.

We are Eternally secure as we abide in Christ. [Smith]

If we abide in Christ, we will bear Good Fruit [NJC]

- **What is Good Fruit?**

Galatians 5:22 ... the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.**

- **All under the umbrella of Love**

John 13:35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love for one another.**

We don't/can't bear good fruit by **trying**...We bear good fruit by **abiding** [NJC]

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may **bear more fruit**. **3** You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

- **Wicked Lazy Unprofitable Servant?** Servant who did not bear good fruit because he was not saved and filled w/Spirit to bear fruit of the Spirit. **Bore fruit of flesh...**

Galatians 5:19 ... the works of the flesh are evident...adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, **21** envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like... that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

3 John 1:11 ... He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

We have Holy Spirit and bear Good Fruit/Don't have the Holy Spirit and bear Bad Fruit.
You are either saved or not...there is no in between. Sheep or Goat

SUMMARY Parable of the Talents

III. Son of Man Judge of Nations

31 "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.

- **Timeframe:** End of GT When the Son of Man comes; Jesus favorite term for Self
- **Sitting on the Throne of His Glory to Judge. One of two times...**
 1. **Judgement after Tribulation** To begin 1000 yrs. reign Jerusalem
 2. **Judgment after 1000 yr. Reign** White Throne/Final Judgment
- **Who is at this judgment?** Survivors of Great Tribulation: 3 Billion or less

32 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. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 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:

The King will say... Kingdom about to begin

- Separate Righteous/Wicked... Righteous on His right. Wicked on left
- **To the righteous...**

Come, you blessed of My Father

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world

- **Inheritance as sons/daughters of the King**

35 for I [Jesus] was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

- Fed Me, Took Me in, Clothed Me, Visited Me sick/prison...**when did we do that?**

40 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.'**

- When you did those things to My brethren the Jews in Tribulation

Receive Jews/Receive Jesus. Reject Jews/Reject Jesus
The truly saved have a heart for the Jewish People

41 "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**: 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 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.' 44 "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?'

- Did not feed Me/Take me in/Clothe Me, Visit Me...**when didn't we do that?**

45 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.' 46 And these will go away into **everlasting punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal life.**"

Everlasting Punishment vs Eternal Life

- Both Heaven and Hell are forever; i.e. w/out end
- **Everlasting/Eternal** are same Greek word; **aiōnios**
- **i-o'-ne-os**: w/out beginning and end. Perpetual. rt. **i-o'n** Unbroken age

Jesus the Carpenter Savior now Jesus the Judge

Julian the apostate ... once asked a certain Christian, 'What do you think the carpenter's son is doing now?' 'Making coffins for you and for all His enemies,' was the prompt reply." [Spurgeon]

- Choose Jesus as Savior today/ Won't have to meet Him as Judge tomorrow

SUMMARY Son of Man Judge of Nations