



Title: Parable of Talents

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

Date Preached: August 1, 2021

DISCUSSION STARTER:

Do we think about the Lord's second coming as much as we do His first? Reflect on your answer.

DISCUSSION:

Read the scripture text as a group. If you were unable to worship with us on Sunday, you can watch this week's sermon at my.worthingtoncc.org/listen.

1. Read Matthew 24:42-44. What is Jesus saying to his disciples and why is He saying it just a few days before His crucifixion?
2. The ten virgins functioned like 10 bridesmaids in the parable at the beginning of Matthew 25. What separated the foolish ones and the wise ones? What were the foolish ones risking?

For further discussion: The foolish bridesmaids had oil in their lamps, but no *extra* jars, anticipating a short wait for the bridegroom, thus they were not prepared for the delay. Likewise, how are we at times somewhat prepared, but not fully prepared for the second coming? How would you differentiate being somewhat prepared and fully prepared for the second coming?

3. Why couldn't the foolish bridesmaids take oil from the wise bridesmaids? Why do you think Jesus included this in the parable? How does this relate to our salvation?
4. The bridesmaids who were ready entered into the wedding banquet with the bridegroom while the door was shut on the foolish bridesmaids who were not prepared. What does this mean? Where else in Scripture do we find a door shutting signifying the finality? (Genesis 7:13-16; Matthew 24:37-39)
5. Jesus concludes this parable by saying, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." What does it mean to "keep watch" or to be fully prepared for his coming?

For further discussion: Read John 14:1-6. How does knowing "the way" relate to being fully prepared? Read and discuss Hebrews 9:24-28, paying special attention to the end of verse 28.

MY NEXT STEP:

This week reflect on the question, am I ready to see Jesus? To be ready for Jesus then, is to be with Jesus now.

Next Week's Sermon Title: Sheep and Goats