

**(MATTHEW 25:14-46)  
MESSIAH ON A MISSION  
(PART 53)**



**“How to Work While Waiting”**

# Key Themes of Matthew

25:14–46

- Disciples must remain faithful in action.
- Disciples must be merciful in action to the “least of these.”
- Jesus is the judge and the criteria for judgment.

This parable is the sixth and final illustration Christ used to teach preparedness for His second coming. Here, the emphasis is on serving rather than watching.

1. The fig tree (24:32-35)
2. The days of Noah and the two at work (24:36-41)
3. The wise homeowner (24:42-44)
4. The faithful servant (24:45-51)
5. The ten virgins (25:1-13)

Faithfulness Creates  
Greater Opportunity  
For More  
Faithfulness (Matt.  
25:21, 23, 29-30)

Householders going on long journeys might entrust their estate to slaves to oversee (compare Matthew 24:45-51) since household slaves often held managerial roles (for example, Treggiari 1975:49). Thus, the servants understood very well what was required of them. If they fulfill their obligations, they are rewarded with more opportunities.

Jesus' servants are exhorted to exercise faithfulness in all things so that they are always ready for the Lord's return.

At no time is Jesus going to be happy with those who say, "Here you can have your talents back," they will be judged harshly. This warning applies to all disciples, but perhaps most seriously to church leaders: ***"A Christian leader who does not lead is damned"*** (Meier 1980:300).



The faithful practice mercy toward the needy as an expression of their covenant loyalty to Jesus himself.

### Relation of “Faith” and “Works” in Matthew

In the parable of the sheep and the goats, with its apparent judgment based on works, Matthew has consistently highlighted the importance of action as well as words and intention (e.g., 6:1–18; 7:21; 12:33–37). It is integrity between one’s inner life and one’s actions that is important (e.g., 15:11–20; 23:25–28).





“God does not give  
us gifts and talents  
to bury them.

You have a gift.

And it’s not your gift  
to hide.”