



The King and His Kingdom Matthew 25

“Being READY to Meet Jesus-Are You?”

25:1-13 Parable of the 10 Virgins (Bridesmaids)

The main point: The need to be prepared at all times to meet Jesus, for the time is coming for all of us when the door to heaven will be permanently shut!

Chapter 23-25 go together. This chapter continues Jesus statement in Matt 24:44 ***“So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”*** See also:

Matt 25:13 ***“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”***

Read Rev 19:6-8. (7 *Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.*)

The oil in the lamps may be symbolic. If so it almost certainly represents the Holy Spirit to light the way in the darkness.

The 10 women have similarities and differences

Similarities: All **intend** to meet the bridegroom; all have lamps; none knows when he is coming; all are looking forward to participating in the wedding and feast; all fall asleep; all are suddenly awakened.

Differences: One group prepared, the other not; (oil vs. no oil; one group personally prepared, the other Dependent on the first group; one planned ahead, the

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other was careless, short sighted and neglectful, oblivious to personal consequences of this neglect.

25:14-30 Parable of the Talents (Talent = 125 lbs., one is worth 20 years wages) We are dealing with a wealthy man.

Distributes talents according to each man's ability

Expects the money to be put to work for gain

Each man expected to give an account when he returns

Small \longrightarrow Large (“Well done= Excellent or wonderful, tremendous and shows appreciation and joy)

Good and faithful= having virtue, integrity and sure, true.

The unfaithful servant's problem flowed from his distorted, limited view of the Master. (=unbelief)

Main Point: Be faithful with what God has given you. We are made to make a difference for and with Christ! Remember, we only manage, God owns it all, even us!

25:31-46 The Sheep and Goats (not a parable but about judgment and Judgment Day)

“comes in his glory and all his angels with him...” This time Jesus does not come as a suffering servant but a victorious, ruling King to judge and restore.

Discussion Questions: What do you get out of the two parables? Can we personalize them for ourselves and others we know and care about? What do these parables teach us about God's expectations for us in using what He has given for his kingdom and glory? Read and discuss James 2:14-19, 4:13-16. Discuss this summary: We are saved by faith alone—but real faith is never alone!