

## MATTHEW 25: A MOST PRACTICAL LESSON

(Matt. 13:10-16)

### Introduction:

1. Jesus spoke in parables so that He could sift those who want to know Him from those who have no interest in knowing Him.
2. This aligns with what our Lord taught about salvation, that it is not easy but a difficult striving. But luck is involved = luck = when preparation meets opportunity (Seneca, Roman philosopher).
3. That is exactly what Matt. 25, a lesson on preparedness, opportunity, and judgment.

### Discussion:

#### I. The First Parable = Preparation (VV 1-13).

- A. The virgins (bridesmaids) were waiting on the arrival of the groom in order to light the procession to his house for the wedding feast (cp. John 14:1-3).
- B. The bridesmaids did not know when the groom would come (in the context of Matt. 24:36, 42-46) and that forced them to make preparations in case the time was long.
  1. Five of the bridesmaids were wise and made provision for a possible extended wait (v4).
  2. Five were unwise and made no provision (v3).
  3. The situation entailed an extended wait (vv 5, 6).
  4. The wise bridesmaids lit the procession and partook of the wedding feast (vv 7, 10).
  5. The unwise missed the procession seeking provision and were denied entrance to the wedding feast (vv 11, 12).
- C. The application verse speaks us today (v13).
- D. How do we make provision today? 2 Tim. 2:15; Heb. 5:12-14; 2 Pet. 1:3-11.

#### II. The Second Parable = Opportunity (VV 14-30).

- A. The scene is one of servants being given opportunities to serve their Lord in relation to their ability. Those with more ability are given more opportunities to serve (the 5, 2, and 1 talent of vv 14, 15).
  1. Those who received the 5 and 2 talents took advantage of their opportunity to profit their Lord (vv 16, 17).
  2. The one who received 1 talent did not take advantage of his opportunity to profit his Lord (v18). You might say he put his light under a bushel.
  3. When the Lord returned (context of our Lord returning = 24:42, 44, 46, 50; 25:6), he rewarded those servants who had taken advantage of their opportunity, but punished severely the servant who had not (vv 19-30).
- B. The application verse speaks to us today (v29; cp. Matt. 6:14).
- C. How do we take advantage of the opportunities we have? Matt. 7:12 = 5:13-16; Gal. 6:10; Titus 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14. In other words, we are to do good to all if we would have God do good to us (cp. Rom. 8:28).

#### III. The Judgment Day (VV 31-46).

- A. Our Lord completed this instruction with a picture of the judgment scene. That follows naturally. He has supplied us with what we need (preparation) and He gives us opportunities to serve. What we do with those precious gifts is what we will be judged upon.
- B. Note that the issues of judgment are not related to our accessing the grace of God, nor our proper worship of God. No, Jesus focused on our service. Why? Those who do not access the grace of God and worship according to His will are not His servants!!! This judgment scene is related to the judgment of His servants (cp. 1 Pet. 4:17).
- C. Thus this scene shows us the judgment according to the service of His servants (2 Cor. 5:10 in the context of Matt. 23:23).

Conclusion:

1. Consider Matt. 25:13, 29, 46 and decide and abide, strive, and survive!
2. Christians are to be Christ-like. That means we are to obey God just as Jesus did. Not just with regards to cleansing (baptism), or worship (John 4:22-24), but also the “dirty” work (John 13:1-20).
3. Invitation.