

LESSON 28: MATTHEW 25
JUNE 17, 2009

OVERVIEW

- . The Parable of the Ten Virgins – Matthew 25: 1-13
- . The Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25: 14-30
- . The Judgment of the Nations – Matthew 25: 31-46

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS – MATTHEW 25: 1-13

- . Symbols in the parable – Matthew 25: 1-8
 - . The Bridegroom – Ephesians 5:23, 25-27, 30-32
 - . Christ – Intimate union with everyone into whose life He has entered
 - . The Ten Virgins
 - . Professing Christians
 - . In Jewish custom, ten constitutes a complete congregation
 - . Lamps
 - . A symbol of Christian profession – Psalm 119:105, Proverbs 6:23
 - . The lamp could represent the outward physical Christian expression
 - . Oil
 - . The power of the Holy Spirit through which produces the light
 - . All ten virgins had lamps, but only five had oil
 - . Sleepers
 - . The period of “sleep” could refer to the increasing coldness and half heartedness of the church during an age of complacency, little real expectancy or love of the Lord – Revelation 3: 14-18
 - . Could describe our age – much religion, little reality
 - . The Midnight Cry
 - . Refers to that future event, by which God alerts His church that Jesus is on His way
 - . It will come at a time and hour when we least expect it
Matthew 25:6
- . The return of the Bridegroom – Matthew 25: 9-13
 - . Wise virgins refusal to share the oil
 - . On surface this looks like a selfish response
 - . No person can give the Holy Spirit to another person
 - . Only we can ultimately come to grasp our emptiness and turn to Christ and ask for His salvation
 - . There will come a time for all of us when this opportunity will pass and the door will be closed forever – Matthew 25:10
 - . Christ warns us to be vigilant and prepared, for when that time comes those who

have remained strong in their faith will enter – Matthew 25:10

. "I don't know you"

- . The Lord reveals the true identity of the five foolish virgins – Matthew 25:12
 - . They never had a real relationship with Him through obedient, living, personal faith
- . Non-readiness on that day is without remedy
- . The main aim of this parable is to warn members of the church of the dangers of delusion concerning their own readiness for Christ's return and to encourage them to be prepared for His eventual return

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS – MATTHEW 25: 14-30

- . The absent master in the parable represents the Lord and the period between His ascension and His return
- . The talents (goods, treasures) could symbolize two things
 - . It could represent the natural abilities, or physical gifts that God entrusts us with and how we choose to deal with these gifts
 - . It could symbolize the treasure of "truth" that God reveals to us through the Bible and the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and what kind of stewards we are of this truth – Proverbs 3: 13-15
- . The servants symbolize the nominal Christian who has a knowledge and understanding of Jesus Christ
 - . The five talent servant
 - . This person has much knowledge of the Bible along with an opportunity to turn his knowledge into living experience
 - . Through faith and obedience he shared his treasures, or truths, with others, producing additional fruit
 - . The two talent servant
 - . This person has an average understanding of scripture and an average opportunity to share his experience
 - . Yet this person has a heart to take what he knows and share it
 - . The one talent servant
 - . This servant has an understanding about God and a knowledge of his Lord, but lacks faith and trust in his Lord
 - . Out of fear and lack of trust, he buries his treasure and chooses not to share it
 - . He did not want the responsibility of acting upon God's promise and bringing forth fruit in his own life
 - . He never exchanged the intellectual knowledge of the Bible for the reality of personally experiencing Christ

- . Faith in the Lord, means yielding one's life to the Lord Jesus, which always turns head knowledge into heart and life experiences, bearing fruit for God.
 - . God gives us what He knows our heart truly desires and can handle
 - . Faith, without works, is dead

THE JUDGMENT OF NATIONS – MATTHEW 25: 31-46

- . The period of this judgment
 - . The Great Tribulation ends with the last world battle at Armageddon
Revelation 16: 14-16
 - . This great battle is described by the prophets Joel and Zechariah
Joel 3:2, 11-16. Zechariah 14: 2-3
 - . The battle ends with Christ's descent on to the Mount of Olives
Zechariah 14: 4-5
 - . The return of Jesus inaugurates the period of one thousand years called the Millennium
 - . At the beginning of this period Satan will be seized and thrown in to the abyss which will be locked and sealed for a thousand years – Revelation 20: 1-3
 - . At the same time those believers who have already died will be raised up and join Christ for this thousand year reign – Revelation 20: 4-6
 - . The remainder of the dead will be judged at the end of the thousand years
Revelation 20: 11-15
 - . Those still living at the time of Christ's return, will be separated into the two groups described by Christ in Matthew 25: 31-46
 - . The group called the "sheep" will be judged at this time and join the resurrected in this thousand year reign
 - . The group called the "goats" will go to a place of punishment (not the abyss where Satan is) where they will await the final judgment after the thousand years
 - . At the end of the thousand years, the remainder of humanity will be judged
 - . If their name isn't in the Book of Life, they will experience the second death and be thrown in to the lake of fire along with Satan – Revelation 20: 11-15

NEXT LESSON: WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2009 – MATTHEW 26