

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 1/3-4/2022 *Matthew Chapter 25***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

## **ZOOM ONLY THIS WEEK – CCCM CAMPUS CLOSED, MISSIONS CONF**

**WILL RESUME CLASSROOM + ZOOM 1/10-1/11**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

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## OPENING PRAYER

### *Matthew Chapter 25*

**The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins - (vs. 1-13); The Parable of the Talents – (vs. 14-30); The Son of Man Will Judge the Nations - (vs. 31-46).**

**CHAPTER 25** - Chapters 24 & 25 constitute the Olivet Discourse, in which we look at the events at the return of Jesus Christ. This whole discourse was triggered by the question of the disciples concerning **the signs of the coming of the Lord and the signs of the destruction of the temple, and the signs of the end of the world, the end of the age.** And having given to them the prophetic signs that would precede His coming, He then, in a series of parables, **begins to explain the conditions that would exist at His coming again.** Basically, His coming was to be an **any moment event**, though you're asking for signs, just know that it's going to catch a lot of people by surprise. **So, the main thing is to be watching, and to be ready.** A series of parables were given with the thrust of watching and being ready.

In chapter 25, we get the final of the series of parables on the thrust of watching and being ready. Jesus gives this fascinating parable, then when? **When Jesus comes again. When He comes again!**

### Review of last week's verses of chapter 24 –

*Mat 24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"*

*Mat 24:44 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*

*Mat 24:45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?"*

*Mat 24:46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.*

*Mat 24:47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.*

*Mat 24:48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,'*

*Mat 24:49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,*

*Mat 24:50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,*

*Mat 24:51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

### *The Parable of the Ten Virgins*

*Mat 25:1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.*

- **Then!** Do not pay any attention to the chapter division which occurs at this point in the Bible. It is the unexpectedness of His return for the church, and of the need to keep watching for it. This is made evident by His use of "Then."

*Mat 25:2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*

*Mat 25:3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,*

*Mat 25:4 but the wise took oil in their vessels (extra oil) with their lamps.*

- **In the ten virgins we see several similarities.** They were all virgins, they all had lamps, they all had gone out to meet the bridegroom, and they all slumbered and slept. They were all awakened by the same call, and they all began to trim their lamps.
- **Now we see the difference.** Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. The foolish had their lamps but no extra oil with them; and the five took their lamps as well as the oil, the wise ones.

*Mat 25:5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.*

*Mat 25:6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'"*

*Mat 25:7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.*

*Mat 25:8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'*

*Mat 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'*

- **But while the bridegroom was delayed!** Jesus is giving an indication of the fact that His coming was not

going to be as immediate as they were expecting it to be. He was more or less prepping them for the fact that He delayed His immediate return. There came really a loss of the excitement, the awareness of the return of Jesus Christ and the establishing of the kingdom.

- ***They all slumbered and slept until at midnight a cry was heard; 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'*** The fact that the five said, Give us oil for our lamps have gone out, would indicate that at one time their lamps were burning. They have gone out. The emphasis is, they that were ready went in with him to the marriage.
- ***Oil, throughout the scripture, especially the anointing oil, was representative of the Holy Spirit,*** a symbol of the Holy Spirit, the anointing oil. There's much about this parable that we do not know. It is of no value to really speculate, and that is, where did they go to buy the oil? When they came back, did they now have the oil and were their lamps now burning? You see, there's just a lot of unanswered things and you can't really go in and work out each little detail. The main purpose of the parable is just to say to you, Look, you don't know when He's coming, be ready, watch. Be watchful.
- ***The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is that which keeps us watching and keeps us ready.*** Therefore, I think that the parable is just saying to us. We need to be walking in the Spirit! We need to be living in the Spirit! We need to be led by the Spirit, that He is really that supply for us!
- ***You remember the oil in (Zec 4:2-6) And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. [3] Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left." [4] So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?" [5] Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." [6] So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. I do believe that in this parable there is that emphasis of the necessity of being alert, being ready, being watchful, and also walking in the Spirit, having the life of the Spirit.***

***Mat 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.***

***Mat 25:11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'***

***Mat 25:12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'***

- ***In another place, Jesus said, (Mat 7:21-23) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. [22] Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' [23] And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness! Here, there is a similar thing. In that day, that is the day when the Lord comes again to judge, there will be many who will be as the foolish virgins who will be outside seeking entrance as they are saying, Lord, Lord. But He denies ever knowing them. It is interesting with the five foolish virgins who are also outside seeking entrance. He doesn't deny ever knowing them. He declares, I do not know you!***

***Mat 25:13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.***

- ***They that were ready went in with him! Now the thrust of the parable and the punch line! Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming!*** He does not give to us that day or hour that He's coming for us. Thus, the thrust, the main point, over and over is to just watch. And be ready, because we don't know the day or the hour! ***They that were ready went in. The others were left without. Therefore, watch!***

### ***The Parable of the Talents***

***Mat 25:14 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country (his coming would be long delayed), who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.***

***Mat 25:15 And to one he gave five talents (weight of money), to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.***

- ***As we go into the second section of chapter twenty-five, again we are dealing when the Lord comes again.*** It is obvious what Jesus is talking about. He's going away into heaven, travelling to a far country, and to his servants, to the church. He delivers unto them His goods. He imparts unto them (and to us), His resources. "To one five, to another two, to another one; each according to his own ability. *And immediately he went on a journey.*

**Mat 25:16** Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.

**Mat 25:17** And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.

**Mat 25:18** But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

- While He is gone, he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. [17] And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. [18] But he who had received one went and dug in the ground and hid his lord's money.
- Notice the talent is money. In those days, talent was a weight and so it was a talent of gold, or a talent of silver. We read in the scripture of a talent of gold or a talent of silver. It's a certain weight, like we say a pound of gold or a pound of silver, or an ounce of gold. It's a weight and thus, it was the money that was entrusted to them. He dug in the ground and hid his lord's money.

**Mat 25:19** After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

- After a long time, I believe that this ties together concerning the bridegroom delaying. "But as the bridegroom delayed, they slumbered and slept." Now after a long time. I think that Jesus is trying to get across to the disciples the fact that they needed to occupy until He comes. You can't just sit and wait for the Lord to return. He doesn't expect us to just say that the Lord is coming in the next year. You might as well quit college. You might as well just sell everything and let's just live it up because the Lord will be here soon. We don't have to worry about the future. That is not any attitude that God ever intended us to have. He intends us to live with the realization that He could come at any time. Any delay in His return, was and is not really a reason for slothfulness, but really a reason for diligence, because He's coming at any time. However, it may not be within the time frame that we're expecting. With the disciples, here He's talking about a long time. The lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.
- At the coming of the Lord, it will be a time of reckoning with His servants. The Lord will hold us accountable to use those things that He has entrusted into our care. We will have to answer to Him for what we have done with what He has given to us. The believer will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. In (2Co 5:6, 9) So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. [9] Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. My desire is to be absent from this body and to be present with the Lord, therefore, what do I do? I am laboring, I am using that which God has entrusted to me, because my desire is to be accepted by Him.
- (2Co 5:10, 11) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. [11] Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.
- Paul's warning and his own response to the fact that he knows he's going to appear before the judgment seat of Christ, he labors. He uses that which God has given to him in order that he might be accepted by the Lord. (Rom 14:9-12) For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. [10] But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Paul has been warning the Romans here that we're not to judge each other. Leave that to the Lord. You're not my servant, therefore, it isn't mine to judge your service. You're the Lord's servant, He's going to judge you.
- Paul continues, [11] For it is written: "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD." [12] So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. The day of reckoning. You will be required to give an account unto the Lord. We should prepare for that and recognize that God isn't going to judge, accept as all as one big mob or group into heaven, but individually. Your salvation, Your service to the Lord is an individual thing. You will have to give an account unto Him for that service.
- In (1Co 3:12-14) Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw [13] each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. Our works are going to be tested by fire! [14] If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.
- Much of the work that is done is done with improper motives. Much of it is done just to be seen by men or to be recognized and acknowledged by men. You want the praise and the glory of man. You do things in such a way as to draw attention to yourself while you're doing it, so people will know how generous you've been or how sweet you are or how kind you were. You sort of broadcast your good deeds.
- Jesus said, (Mat 6:1) "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Don't let that be the motive. For He said, "Then you have your reward." For those works that were done to be seen of men, and to be acknowledged by men, to

received man's glory, you've already got your reward! You've already got it in the recognition by man. In the praise that has come from man and in the plaque that you have there on the wall that tells of your great contributions. Just look at it, enjoy it, because that's all the reward you're going to get. You say Lord, I did all, didn't you see all those plaques on my wall? All of the things I did for the community and all? Where's my reward? You have already had it!

- **Our works will be tried by fire. Those which are pure will remain.** You'll be rewarded for them. (1Co 3:15) *If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.* (2Co 5:10) *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

**Mat 25:20** *"So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'*

**Mat 25:21** *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

- **If you're not faithful in the little things that God has entrusted to you, how then** would you ever expect Him to entrust you with the big things of the kingdom? Here you see his place in the kingdom was to be in relationship to his faithfulness to that which God had entrusted him with now. This is the proving ground. This is the place of testing. This is where the metal is being tested. Your reward, and your place in the kingdom will be related to your faithfulness and your diligence in the things that God has entrusted into your hands now! What a beautiful reward! "Well done, good and faithful servant," the approval of our Lord! How beautiful! *You were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord!* (Rom 14:17) *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.* Enter into the joy of your Lord!

**Mat 25:22** *He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'*

- *He also who had received two talents..., I have gained two more talents besides them.* Notice the very same words of commendation were given to him!

**Mat 25:23** *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*

- We see the same reward, the same words of approval! Notice, that it isn't how great a ministry we might have or how little a ministry we might have, the reward is the same if we are faithful to that which God has placed in our keeping! That is wonderful to know! (Luk 12:48b) *For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. If God has given you more, then the responsibility and the obligation is greater to use that for His glory. The reward was for the faithfulness in using what God had entrusted!*

**Mat 25:24** *"Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.*

**Mat 25:25** *And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'*

- **These were excuses that he was offering but offering on the basis of a misconception.** *Lord, I knew you to be a hard man.* You're a demanding master. But, we know Jesus said, My yoke is easy! He didn't say I'm hard. He said, "My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." There are many people who shy away from serving the Lord because they fear that He is hard, that He is a driver. But God will never call you to do anything but what He doesn't equip you to do it, and He will enable you to do it!
- **The New Testament says, Paul said, (Php 2:13) for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.** That's what makes serving the Lord such a delight! Because He puts it in your will first, and thus He gives you the desires of your heart! He is the One who creates those desires in your heart for Him and for the things of His service. Therefore, you're just doing what's delightful! It's not hard! His yoke is easy! His burden is light because He writes His law right in the fleshly tablets of our heart, both to will, and then the capacity to do!
- **So false conceptions!** It would be totally dishonest to reap where you have not sown. He accuses the Lord of that. But the Lord is not dishonest. He gives his conception of the Lord, using that for the basis of his excuse for having done nothing. I was afraid and therefore, I hid the talent in the earth. Here it is, all intact, it's Yours.

**Mat 25:26** *"But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.*

- *You wicked and lazy servant.* The Lord Jesus nails it! The servant said, I was afraid. The Lord said, No

you're lazy. You are wicked because of your concept of the Lord, but it is your laziness that kept you from doing anything with what I entrusted to you.

- **Solomon wrote of the lazy man. (Pro 26:13-15)** *The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!"* He doesn't go out to work because he might get devoured by a lion out there! [14] *As a door turns on its hinges, So does the lazy man on his bed.* [15] *The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.* He's so lazy, he won't even eat. I mean, that's bad. Then speaking of desire, (Pro 21:25) *The desire of the lazy man kills him, For his hands refuse to labor.* You have the desire, but you won't work for it. So, your desire just destroys you

**Mat 25:27** *So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.*

- **Jesus tells the servant, If you thought this of me, then you should have at least** put the money in the bank. I could have received interest on it. Then the order was to **take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.**

**Mat 25:28** *So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.*

**Mat 25:29** *'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.*

**Mat 25:30** *And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

- **And cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness:** Jesus describes it as a place where *there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
- **Jesus speaks of this place where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth,** in (Matthew 8:12) *But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* He says that the Jews, who really were the prime inheritors of the kingdom, will be cast out because of their rejection of Him and the Gentiles will be brought in. When the Christ rejecting Jews see the Gentiles partaking of the kingdom, they will be cast into outer darkness. With the Jews, who have rejected Jesus as Messiah, there will be *weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
- **In (Mat 13:41-42) The Son of Man will send out His angels,** and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, [42] and will cast them into the furnace of fire. *There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.* The tares in the last days, and again, this judgment that will come when the Lord comes and we have to give an account of ourselves, the tares will be cast into a furnace of fire and there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
- **The guests, seeking to come to the wedding feast, who are not clothed in the right garment.** They were not clothed in the righteousness of Christ but were trying to come into the heavenly scene apart from that. (Mat 22:13) *Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*
- **The evil servant, (Mat 24:48-51)** *But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming, [49] and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, [50] the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, [51] and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
- **The slothful servant here now who buried the Lord's talent joins them.** *Cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth*

### **The Final Judgment**

- **Now we come into the final heart of the chapter in which Jesus talks of the judgment** that will come upon the world when He returns. The world is going to be going through this period of great tribulation when God will judge the world for its wickedness and for the rejection of Jesus. The world's population will probably be decimated during this period of God's wrath and great tribulation, that will come upon the earth. But there will be those who will survive and will be alive on the earth when Jesus comes again in clouds and great glory with His saints to establish God's kingdom upon the earth. But the fact that you survived the great tribulation does not guarantee or insure that you'll be allowed to live on into the kingdom age!
- **When the Lord returns with His church, then shall He gather together the nations to judge.** He will separate them at that time, those which will be allowed to enter into the kingdom and those that will be cut off at that point. They won't even be given the privilege of entering into the kingdom age. There will be those who will survive the great tribulation, and who will live still on into the kingdom age when our Lord returns with His church in glory, in the glory of His power and majesty. Now He is talking about the

judgment of the nations that will take place when He returns. He talked about the judgment of His servants. They, will be judged. Now there will also be a corresponding judgment on the world.

**Mat 25:31** *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

- **The glorious coming again of Christ, in majesty, power, sitting upon the throne, taking the authority over the earth.** When the kingdoms of this world will now be the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Messiah. He shall reign and He establishes now the throne of David once again, sitting upon that throne to begin His rule over the earth in the kingdom age.

**Mat 25:32** *All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd (ethnos – ethnic groups, Gentiles, clans) his sheep from the goats.*

**Mat 25:33** *And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.*

**Mat 25:34** *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

- **This was God's desire from the beginning!** This was God's purpose that the earth live under the government of God, a righteous kingdom and you're going to have the privilege now of entering into this kingdom that God has purposed from the beginning, which was God's original purpose. God's original intent for man was not the world as we see it today in rebellion against God with all of the crimes and assaults, misery and junk that is here. All the pain, sorrow, death, suffering. God didn't intend that! So, we'll have the privilege of living on the world as God's intended the world to be. A world that is in harmony with God. A world that is in subjection to the authority of the reign of Jesus Christ.

**Mat 25:35** *for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;*

**Mat 25:36** *I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'*

**Mat 25:37** *"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?*

**Mat 25:38** *When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?*

**Mat 25:39** *Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'*

**Mat 25:40** *And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

- **For just a cup of cold water given to a prophet in the name of the prophet, you will receive the prophet's reward.** Jesus wants us to be kind and considerate towards the least of our brethren. *Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me!*

**Mat 25:41** *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:*

**Mat 25:42** *for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;*

**Mat 25:43** *I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'*

**Mat 25:44** *"Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'*

**Mat 25:45** *Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'*

**Mat 25:46** *And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

- **The great division, the dividing.** Now Jesus in the kingdom parables, Matthew thirteen, gave a parable, beginning with verse thirty-seven, of the field in which the wheat was planted, the good seed that was sown in the field. This parable of the kingdom and the tares growing with the wheat is related to these parables of the end of the age and when the Lord comes and the things that will happen at that time. When He gave the parable of the tares, how that they'd sown the good seed, (**Mat 13:24-30**) *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; [25] but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. [26] But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. [27] So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' [28] He said*

to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' [29] But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. [30] Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." The separation and the judging of, again, the church, the servants. Judgment begins at the house of God.

- **Now the disciples asked Him to explain that parable when the multitude was gone.** It's interesting He had given several parables. This is the one that puzzled them, this is the one they wanted explained.
- *(Mat 13:36-39) Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." [37] He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. [38] The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. [39] The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.*
- **Jesus is laying the whole thing out, He's telling you and giving you what each one is.** You don't have to wonder about the symbolism here. He tells you exactly what it is. The field is the world. The good seed are the children of the kingdom. The tares are the children of the wicked one. The enemy, Satan, has sown the tares. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are the angels. *(Mat 13:40-43) Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. [41] The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, [42] and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. [43] Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*
- **The day of judgment, the day of reckoning is coming,** not only for the church, but for the world itself when the Lord returns to establish His kingdom. When the Lord does establish His kingdom, you will either be inside and a part of the kingdom, or you will be outside of the kingdom where there is weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth. It's serious. It's your future. It's your eternal destiny. But you see, right now, you are either in the kingdom of God or you are outside of the kingdom of God.
- **It is possible that you are regularly attending church but you have no oil for your lamp.** It is possible that you are in church, but you are not using what God has entrusted to you. You've buried the talent. Just being in church will not guarantee your being in the kingdom of heaven. You may be a tare, a terror. Let a man examine himself for if we will judge ourselves, we will not be judged of God. We will give an account. There will be the day of reckoning. Then, it then will be determined whether or not we are privileged to live in the glory of His kingdom, to inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Or, on the other hand, those that will be cast out into outer darkness, into everlasting punishment for their failure.
- **This is serious business. Be forewarned!** It is your obligation to seek the Lord and to seek Him for your service. Lord, what would You have me to do, Lord, for the kingdom of God? How would You have me to use that which You have entrusted into my keeping? How can I multiply, Lord, that which You have done and entrusted with me that it might be used for Your glory?

## **SUMMARY POINTS:**

### **The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins:**

- **Learning from the wise and foolish virgin parable,** we see one great truth, which is **the continuing emphasis on being ready**, though we do not know the day nor the hour of His coming, even if He delays His coming.
- **Both the foolish and the wise virgins had light. Both were watching, but only the wise had extra oil,** which is **representative of the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- **The five wise were prepared for His coming and the five foolish were not prepared.** How prepared am I?
- **We see the total commitment and obedience of the wise to Jesus Christ,** being **filled with the Holy Spirit**, in His precious **living word every day**, spending **much time in prayer!** He will enable us to persevere and to victoriously prevail, through delays, trials, and difficulties, if we are staying firmly fixed on Him.
- **We need that extra supply of oil! Am I firmly committed to Him, no matter what? Do I have that? Am I watching and waiting for the bridegroom's return? Am I one of the wise or of the foolish?**



### **The Parable of the Talents:**

- **Are you waiting for his return? Are you ready to risk** what the Lord has given you, for His name's sake?
- **May Your Word have its way with us, have its effect upon our lives**, healing, Lord, and straightening out our motives.
- **Lord, show us what we really are and what we are living for;** What are the real goals and real gods in our lives.
- **May we be committed, Lord, to this one great cause which demands our time and effort**, all the thrust and drive of our lives. May we have an increasing understanding and insight and a readiness to obey You in this respect.
- **We are called "to present our bodies a living sacrifice, wholly acceptable unto God**, which is our reasonable service." May we do so in understanding that it is not our commitment that makes a difference, it is your power working through us.

### **The Son of Man Will Judge the Nations:**

- **We must do what our Lord says. We must obey the command he repeats again and again. Watch!**
- **Keep alert! Watch! We have learned now what that means.** It means three specific and definite things:
- **1) It means we are to help one another feed upon the living Lord Jesus**, as revealed in the written Word of God. We must study the Book.
- **2) It means we must walk in the Spirit**, depending not upon our human resources and weapons, but upon the power of an indwelling Spirit who is God himself, at work in us.
- **3) It means we must live dangerously, venturing ourselves for Christ's sake!** We must keep thrusting out in his name, buying up every opportunity to meet those around us at the point of their need.
- **This, and this alone, is watching. Nothing can take its place. (Luke 21:36) Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.**
- **Teach us how to live by Him so that all we do and say** is a manifestation of His life at work in us.

### **CLOSING SONG:**

#### **JESUS IS COMING SOON! EVEN SO COME** - Hillsong (3:51)

All of creation All of the earth Make straight a highway A path for the Lord Jesus is coming soon Call back the sinner Wake up the saint Let every nation shout of Your fame **Jesus is coming soon Like a bride waiting for her groom** We'll be a Church ready for You Every heart longing for our King We sing "even so come" Lord Jesus, come Even so come Lord Jesus, come  
There will be justice, all will be new Your name forever, faithful and true **Jesus is coming soon Oh, like a bride waiting for her groom** We'll be a Church ready for You Every heart longing for our King We sing "even so come" Lord Jesus, come Even so come Lord Jesus, come

#### **So we wait We wait for You God, we wait You're coming soon (2X)**

Like a bride waiting for her groom We'll be at Church, ready for You Every heart longing for our King, we sing  
Like a bride waiting for her groom We'll be at Church, we'll be ready for You Every heart longing for our King, we sing "even so come" Lord Jesus, come  
Even so come Lord Jesus, come Even so come Lord Jesus, come Even so come Lord Jesus, come

### **CLOSING PRAYER:**