

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
JANUARY 27, 2021
MATTHEW 25.14-30

INTRODUCTION:

1. When should you and I be productive? (cf. 2 Tim. 4.2)
2. In Matthew 25, Jesus helps us to be ready for the day of Judgment by teaching three lessons.
 - a) **MATTHEW 25.1-13:** The parable of the ten virgins teaches us to always be prepared.
 - b) **MATTHEW 25.14-30:** The parable of the talents teaches us to always be productive.
 - c) **MATTHEW 25.31-46:** The judgment scene teaches us to always show compassion.
3. In the parable of the talents, there is a context, content, and conclusion.

I. THE CONTENTS OF THE PARABLE

A. The Assignment.

1. **MATTHEW 25.14:** *“a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.”*
2. The Bible word for the master placing something of value into the care of his servant is the word “steward.” (cf. 1 Cor. 4.1,2)
 - a) Steward (oikonomos): Oikos – “house”; Nomos – “Law.” The ruler of the house.
 - b) This was a common practice in Bible times. (Matt. 21.33; Mark 13.34)

B. The Administration.

1. **MATTHEW 25.15:** *“And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.”*
2. A talent is a weight of measurement equivalent to about 130lbs. The value of the talents depends of the metal being weighed. (2 Kings 18.14)
3. **MATTHEW 25.16-18:** Each did something with the talents given to them.

C. The Accounting.

1. **MATTHEW 25.19:** *“the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.”*
2. **MATTHEW 25.20,21:** The one who received five talents did well and was rewarded.
3. **MATTHEW 25.22,23:** The one who received two talents did well and was rewarded.
4. **MATTHEW 25.24,25:** The one who received one talent did not do well.

D. The Assessment.

1. **MATTHEW 25.26:** *“wicked”* (poneros): Hurtful, one who causes harm.
2. **MATTHEW 25.26:** *“lazy”* (okneros): One who is slothful and idle.
3. **MATTHEW 25.30:** *“unprofitable”* (achreios): To not supply what is needed.

II. THE CONCLUSION OF THE PARABLE

A. **MATTHEW 25.30:** *“And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* This connects to the previous parable.

1. The five foolish virgins were unprepared. (Matt. 25.10-13)
2. The one who was unprepared was the one who was wicked, lazy, and unprofitable.
3. If we are going to be prepared for the coming judgment, we must be productive.

B. Lessons that we can apply from the parable of the talents.

1. Each one of us has different abilities. (Matt. 25.15; 1 Cor. 12.28-30)
2. Each one of us is expected to use our abilities. (Rom. 12.3-8)
3. Our abilities are to be used for one purpose. (1 Cor. 6.19,20; 10.31; Matt. 5.14-16)
4. We will be judged by our productivity. (Rom. 2.2-11)