

Passion Week—The Olivet Discourse: Parables About Faithfulness (Tuesday, March 31, 33)

Matthew 25:1–30

Parable of the Ten Virgins

- 1 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.
- 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,
- 4 but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.
- 5 Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began* to sleep.
- 6 But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.’
- 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.
- 8 The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’
- 9 But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy *some* for yourselves.’
- 10 And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.
- 11 Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’
- 12 But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’
- 13 Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Parable of the Talents

- 14 “For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them.
- 15 To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey.
- 16 Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents.
- 17 In the same manner the one who *had received* the two *talents* gained two more.
- 18 But he who received the one *talent* went away, and dug a *hole* in the ground and hid his master’s money.
- 19 “Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.
- 20 The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.’
- 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’
- 22 “Also the one who *had received* the two talents came up and said, ‘Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.’
- 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’
- 24 “And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no *seed*.
- 25 And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.’
- 26 “But his master answered and said to him, ‘You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*.
- 27 Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest.
- 28 Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’
- 29 “For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.

30 Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

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