

Parables of the Kingdom – 4Leader's NotesThe Chart

Use the chart to explain the different ages the Bible speaks about.

i. The two ages

- 'This present age' which is described as an 'evil age' in Galatians. Satan is the god of this age. However it will come to an end soon when Jesus returns. (See picture of angels.)
- Then there is another age to come. There will be glorious ages when Jesus will rule over all. This includes the Millennium and the New Heavens and the New Earth.

ii. The Kingdom of God

- God's plan through the ages is to establish His Kingdom. When Jesus came He began His ministry by proclaiming that the Kingdom of Heaven had arrived. (See picture of cross.)
- God wants His Kingdom to be established in people's lives, as they allow Jesus to rule as their King. This is the Kingdom of God within.
- When Jesus comes again His Kingdom will be seen in all its power and glory. (See picture of throne and crown.) This Kingdom will last forever.

iii. The Church age

- Although this age is evil, God has a plan for the Church to proclaim the message of the Kingdom in all the world. He promises that He will be with us to the end of the age.
- When we have finished our task Jesus will return to judge the world. (See picture of a seat.) It will be a time of reward for some, but a time of punishment for others.

In this Bible study we will learn more about what will happen when Jesus returns and how we can be prepared. Jesus teaches this in 3 more parables.

1. Parable of the Ten Virgins**Matthew 25:1-13**

What do you think are the important truths we can learn from this story?  
How can we be ready for the return of Jesus? Also see Ephesians 5:15-17

The main truth Jesus is teaching is the importance of being prepared for His return. In this story we see that five virgins were prepared and five were not.

How can we be prepared?

- We need to continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus. He said to those who were unprepared, "Depart from me, I never knew you."
- We need to have our lives constantly filled with the Holy Spirit, just as the five wise virgins were prepared with extra oil.
- We need to realise how serious it is for those who will not be ready and make the most of the time. Ephesians 5:15-17

**Summary:** Always be prepared: No one knows the day or the hour when Jesus will return.

## 2. Parable of the Talents

**Matthew 25:14-30**

### **Discuss**

Why do you think the man who had received only one talent did not use his gift?

What other lessons can we learn from this story?

### Why didn't the man with one talent use his gift?

- He was afraid (v25) because he thought the master was hard and unjust. Some people are like this. They think God expects more from them than they are able to do, so they give up and do nothing. They don't understand that God just wants them to use the gifts He has given them.
- Perhaps this man also felt inferior to the others who had more talents, so he didn't want to do anything. This is really a form of pride.
- He may have been jealous of the others because they had more than him. Let's be humble servants and gladly serve the Lord with the gifts He has given us, and not compare with others.

### What other lessons can we learn from this story?

- The most important lesson we can learn is that we will all have to give an account to the Lord for what we have done with what He has given us. Are you using what God has given to you?

**Summary:** Use your talents/gifts: You will be held accountable.

## 3. Example of the Sheep and the Goats

**Matthew 25:31-46**

### **Discuss**

Who will be rewarded when Jesus returns? Matthew 25:34-40

- It will be those who have 'fed the hungry, given to the thirsty, invited strangers in ..'
- These are some of the practical ways we show we really love Jesus. A person who is a real Christian will show it in his life.

### **Discuss**

There are many people and organisations that do 'good works'. However not all will be rewarded. What attitudes and motives do we need to have if we are going to be rewarded?

- Many do good works, so people will think highly of them, or to gain merit in the next life.
- The ones who are rewarded by the Lord are those who do it out of love for Him. When Jesus said they had fed and clothed Him, they were surprised. Their motives were right. These people were truly righteous. V37

**Summary:** Produce the fruit of righteousness: You will be judged.