

Parables of the Kingdom - 4

Everyone is interested in the future! In the last study we saw how the disciples of Jesus asked Him what would be the sign of His coming and the end of the age. Jesus answered their questions and showed them that this age will end when Jesus returns and another age will begin. See the chart on the other sheet.

Jesus then goes on in Matthew 25 to tell two parables about what will happen 'at that time' when He returns.

Matthew 25:1            'At that time'    - this is the time Jesus speaks of in Matthew 24:30

Matthew 25:14        'Again'            - Jesus is speaking about the same time

Let's see what will happen when Jesus returns and how we can be ready.

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

This seems an unusual story to us, but to the people in Jesus' day it was a familiar scene. A wedding was just like this. Jesus uses this story to teach an important truth.



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

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Parable of the Talents                      **Matthew 25:14-30**

In the story three servants were given different amounts of money. One was given 5 talents, another two, and the other one. The talents are just like the differing gifts and abilities that we have received.



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?

Often we excuse ourselves by saying, "We have no gifts or abilities for God to use!" However in 1 Corinthians 12:11 we are told that all have received gifts and we are responsible to use these for Him.

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Example of the Sheep and the Goats

**Matthew 25:31-46**

Jesus now goes on to teach more about what will happen when He returns. V31-33. At that time He will sit on His throne and all men will have to stand before Him. For some it will be a time of reward, but for others, punishment.

**Discuss**

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

**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?

Summary: \_\_\_\_\_

The signs Jesus spoke of are rapidly being fulfilled. The time is near for His return. We need to prepare now. How can we do that?

- ✦ From the parable of the ten virgins we learnt that we need to have our lives constantly filled with the oil of the Spirit.
- ✦ From the parable of the talents we learnt that we must use our gifts and abilities for the Lord.
- ✦ From the example of the sheep and the goats we learnt that we must produce the fruit of righteousness in our lives.

Are you preparing yourself?

