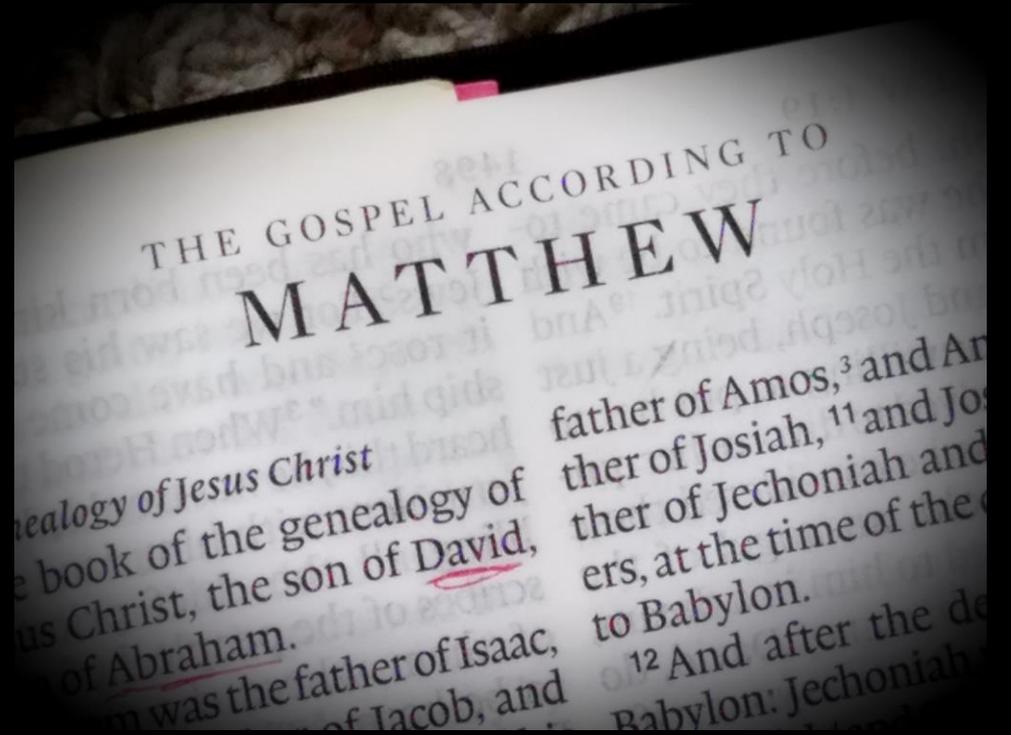


Verse by Verse

Matthew 25



Christ's Teaching in Matthew

Christ's Teaching in Matthew

Christ's Teaching in Matthew:

- Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5 – 7
- Commissioning of the Twelve Matthew 10
- Parables of the Kingdom Matthew 13
- Message on Community Life Matthew 18
- Seven Woes Matthew 23
- Olivet Discourse Matthew 24 – 25

Matthew 25 Introduction

Matthew 25 Introduction

- After the **Sermon on the Mount**, the **Olivet Discourse** is the next longest continuous teaching of Jesus that we have.
- After the book of **Revelation**, it is the next longest piece of New Testament prophecy.
- It has parallels in **Mark 13**, **Luke 17** and **Luke 21**.
- In today's chapter Christ tells us two parables and then gives one last warning about a coming judgment.

Matthew 25 Key Verses

Matthew 25 Key Verses

- Matthew 25:37-40 (ESV)

³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25 Outline

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1. Parable of the Ten Virgins 25:1-13
2. Parable of the Talents 25:14-30
3. The Sheep and the Goats 25:31-46

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

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- In this wedding scene **Christ is the bridegroom**, naturally.
- The **ten virgins** would be what we might call the bridesmaids.
- The lesson is the same as in our last chapter, that we have to be ready and watch.
- It shows us several more things.

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

Lessons from the Parable of the Ten Virgins:

1. Christ may delay his coming longer than we expect.
2. Like the wheat and the weeds in **Matthew 13**, there is no visible difference between these girls until the end.
3. You cannot borrow saving faith from anyone else.
4. There is no possibility of late entrance.
5. The final judgment will lead to a final separation between the saved and the lost.

2. Parable of the Talents 25:14-30

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- A talent is a weight, so these talents are large quantities, maybe 75 lbs., of silver coins.
- The faithful servants took what their master gave them and used it to make more for him.
- The wicked servant didn't do anything except hide and hold onto the one talent he received.

2. Parable of the Talents 25:14-30

Lessons from the Parable of the Talents:

1. Like the master in the parable, our Master has gone off on a long “journey”, but we know that he will return.
 - The question for us is “Are we being faithful to use what he has given us for his purposes, for his benefit?”

2. Parable of the Talents 25:14-30

Lessons from the Parable of the Talents:

2. We each receive different levels of trust from our Master, “To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.” (v.15)

- Luke 12:48b says,

Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

2. Parable of the Talents 25:14-30

Lessons from the Parable of the Talents:

3. Using what we have increases our ability. Not using what we have decreases our ability to use it.

- We might call this spiritual muscle building or atrophy.

“For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.” (v.29)

2. Parable of the Talents 25:14-30

If we develop our muscles, our reward is that we can carry heavier burdens and still feel good ... It is like that in the spiritual realm. When we act faithfully under the responsibilities the Master has entrusted to us, our capacities will grow. If we do nothing with them, our ability to respond and be useful will diminish to vanishing point.¹

*– Michael Green (1930 – 2019),
Wycliffe Hall, Oxford*



2. Parable of the Talents 25:14-30

Lessons from the Parable of the Talents:

4. The third man is possibly the most interesting. He didn't do anything wrong, he just didn't do anything.
 - The Christian life is always a life of active service.
 - We do not all do the same thing, and some can do more than others. (There are very "talented" people!)
 - What counts most, however, is making good use of what we have for our Master's benefit.

3. The Sheep and the Goats 25:31-46

3. The Sheep and the Goats 25:31-46

- This gives us very specific insights into a specific future judgment that will happen when Christ returns.
- The people the King references are **the sheep, the goats** and **“my brothers,”** speaking of his relatives, his own people.
- When Christ comes back, after the seven-year Tribulation, he will judge the Gentiles as to their stance toward Israel.

3. The Sheep and the Goats 25:31-46

- Joel 3:1-2 (ESV)

For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, ² I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land.

3. The Sheep and the Goats 25:31-46

- During that seven-year period, after the Rapture of the Church, God will again use Israel as his chosen messengers.
- The nations, however, under the leadership of the Man of Sin (Antichrist) will be united against the Jews.
- The response of individual Gentiles toward the Jews will reflect their actual response toward Christ – or Antichrist.

3. The Sheep and the Goats 25:31-46

- Please notice the seriousness of the punishment and blessing as Christ describes them.
- **Matthew 25:34** (ESV)

Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

3. The Sheep and the Goats 25:31-46

- Please notice the seriousness of the punishment and blessing as Christ describes them.
- **Matthew 25:41** (ESV)

Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

3. The Sheep and the Goats 25:31-46

- Please notice the seriousness of the punishment and blessing as Christ describes them.
- **Matthew 25:46** (ESV)

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

3. The Sheep and the Goats 25:31-46

- Those are some main points that Christ is making, but as always, there is an everyday application for us.
- When Christ was here, he made friends with the poor and the needy – and so should we.
- This is especially applies to how we treat fellow believers.
- It is also true of the poor and the needy in general, so Christians have always cared for the poor, the sick and so on.

3. The Sheep and the Goats 25:31-46

[Ancient] Pagan and Christian writers are unanimous not only that Christian Scripture stressed love and charity as the central duties of faith, but that these were sustained in everyday behavior ... When the New Testament was new, these were the norms of Christian communities. ²

– Rodney Stark, sociologist of religion, U of Washington, Baylor University, an agnostic



3. The Sheep and the Goats 25:31-46

- Christ desires love and charity, care for the hungry, the stranger (*xenos* or “foreigner”) and the needy.
- He includes those who are sick and in prison.
- When we serve the needy we are serving Christ.
- Let’s keep doing this until Jesus comes.

Matthew 25 What We Just Read

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1. Parable of the Ten Virgins 25:1-13
2. Parable of the Talents 25:14-30
3. The Sheep and the Goats 25:31-46

Matthew 25 Key Verses

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Matthew 25 Key Points

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Lessons from the Parable of the Ten Virgins:

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Matthew 25 Key Points

Lessons from the Parable of the Talents:

1. Like the master in the parable, our Master has gone off on a long “journey”, but we know that he shall return.
2. We each receive different levels of trust from our Master. The point is to use what we have for his glory.
3. Using what we have increases our ability. Not using what we have decreases our ability to use it.
4. The Christian life is always a life of active service. We do something wrong if we never do anything.

Matthew 25 Key Points

Lessons from the Sheep and the Goats:

1. The consequences of Christ's judgment are eternal. He calls them "eternal life" and "eternal punishment."
2. When Christ was here, he made friends with the poor and the needy – and so should we.
3. He desires love and charity, care for the hungry, the "foreigner," those who are sick and in prison.
4. When we serve the needy we are serving Christ.
5. Let's keep doing this until Jesus comes.

Matthew 25 A Prayer

Matthew 25 A Prayer

- Heavenly Father,
- The church has been waiting for Christ's return for what seems like a long time. Help our faith to be genuine and our attitude to remain watchful so that we will be ready when he finally arrives.
- Help us also to be busy about our Master's business. You have given us resources and abilities that you expect us to use for you. Help us not to fear or get lazy, but rather to use what you have given us for your glory.

Matthew 25 A Prayer

- We also realize that the consequences of Christ's judgment are eternal. We ask you to forgive us that we might inherit the kingdom that you have prepared for us from the foundation of the world.
- We pray for all of those we know that are lost, that they might be saved, and in that way avoid the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25 A Prayer

- While we are waiting for Jesus and working for you, help us to be a blessing to the poor, the needy, the foreigner, the sick and those who are in prison.
- Help us to be a blessing to any and all that need our help, starting with our brothers and sisters in Christ, but not stopping with only them.
- And help us to keep doing this until Jesus comes.
- In Christ's name,
- Amen.

Matthew 25 References

1. Green, M. (2001). *The message of Matthew: the kingdom of heaven*. Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press (262).
2. Rodney Stark. (1997) *The Rise of Christianity*. San Francisco, HarperCollins (86-87).