

Jesus continues with the illustrations of the end of time.

Mat 25:1-2 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went out to meet the bridegroom. (2) "And five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.

A Jewish wedding - the betrothal occurred about a year earlier. The bride prepares herself for the wedding and now the bridegroom comes. The custom is for the wedding guests to wait with lamps burning. When the bridegroom comes, the doors are shut and no more guests are allowed in.



A Jewish lamp with a menorah (7 pronged candlestick) drawn in the middle.

Found in abundance in Israel by archeologists.

Mat 25:7-11 "Then all those virgins rose, and trimmed their lamps. (8) "And the foolish said to the prudent, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' (9) "But the prudent answered, saying, '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) "And later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.'

The lesson is clear, when Jesus returns, there will be no time to prepare – we must always be ready

Mat 25:13 "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Heb 9:27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

2Th 1:6-10 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, (7) and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, (8) dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (9) And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, (10) when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed – for our testimony to you was believed.

Mat 25:14-18 "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) "And 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 in the ground, and hid his master's money.

A talent was the amount of silver or gold a man could carry for a day, usually put at 70 lbs. (1120 ounces, gold currently \$1220 per ounce or about \$1.4 million per talent). The word “talent” has come to mean ability. No one has no ability but many refuse to increase their abilities and their service to God

The principle establishes our judgment will be according to ability and service rendered rather than absolute requirements. Some can and will do more than others, but it is their responsibility to do so if they have the ability.

Remember the parable of the Vineyard in which equality of reward is taught for variation in work done. Mt 20.1-15

The judgment day, not the destruction of
Jerusalem. 2Co 5:10 Our judgement will be based
on our deeds

Mat 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord,
Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he
who does the will of My Father who is in
heaven. Rev 20:12-15 2Th 1:5-9

Rev 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. (14) And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Mat 25:25-30 '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 shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. (30) "And cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Mat 25:31-34 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. (32) "And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; (33) and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. (34) "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Mat 25:37-40 "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 invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? (39) 'And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' (40) "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

Our compassion must extend to “one of the least of these” and not just to those of family, friend or ethic or political group.

Mat 25:44-46 "Then they themselves also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' (45) "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' (46) "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Are we living right tonight?

Jesus is coming soon – are you ready?

Act 22:16 'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'