

THE PARABLES OF Jesus

“The Son of Man is Coming” Parables

Lesson 11

“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” (Matt 25:13)

Jesus delivered some of his most famous and pointed parables in the week leading up to his crucifixion. We’ve already looked at some of them in other parts of this study, but let’s appreciate how the events unfolded and *why* Jesus said what he said in these parables.

- On Sunday, Jesus makes his triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matt 21:1-11)
- On Monday, he cleanses the temple (21:12-17)
- On Tuesday, the chief priests and elders challenge his authority (21:23-27)

As the hard hearts of so many of the people become more and more evident, Jesus foretells the eventual destruction of Jerusalem (Matt 24) and launches into three final parables. Let’s take the time to carefully read them with this setting in mind. What do they help us see? What difference should they make in our lives, even today?

☼ **The parable of the ten virgins** (Matt 25:1-13)

The comparison: “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.”



☼ **The parable of the talents** (25:14-30)

The consequences: “And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”



☼ **The final judgment** (25:31-46)

The coming appointment: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people from one another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”



So what do you think? What do these “Son of Man is coming” parables mean? Why did Jesus tell them? What do they teach us about the kingdom of heaven? **Let’s talk about it...**



For Class & Family Discussion:

Looking back a little bit at the setting of these three parables, why do you think Jesus is telling the *sort* of parables he is throughout **Matthew 25**? How are these different from some of the other parables he delivered earlier?

Why were the ten virgins described as either “foolish” or “wise” in **25:1-13**?

What should we make of how the story ends in **25:10-12**? What does Jesus want us to see and understand? What is he talking to us about in **25:13**?

“For it will be like...” (**25:14**). What is the “it” Jesus is describing?

Why did the master in **25:14-30** describe two servants as “good and faithful” and the last as “wicked and slothful”?

What do you think Jesus means in **25:29**? And what should we make of his strong statement in **25:30**?

What stands out to you about his final parable in **25:31-46**?

What impact should listening to Jesus get more and more serious, ultimately ending with **25:46**, have on us, even 2,000 years after he delivered these parables? How does this “kingdom of heaven” truly turn the world upside-down?