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THE GOSPEL OF JESUS

MAT 25:01-30

FOOLISHNESS VERSUS WISDOM

I. INTRODUCTION

A. We are still in the “Olivet Discourse” – part 2 if you will.

1. Pastor Dan ended **Matthew 24** emphasizing the need to be ready for our master’s return. **Matthew 25** begins with another parable emphasizing the same principle.
2. I trust that you remember the disciples want to know when His second coming will be and Jesus really doesn’t answer that question because **Mark 13:32 (NKJV) — 32** (tells us) **“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.**
 - a) However what He does do - is speak to them in Parables so that they might understand when it is getting close!
 - (1) He is still doing that in **Chapter 25.**

II. **MATTHEW 25:1 (NKJV) — 1 “THEN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN SHALL BE LIKENED TO TEN VIRGINS WHO TOOK THEIR LAMPS AND WENT OUT TO MEET THE BRIDEGROOM.**

A. *There were three stages to a Jewish wedding in that day. The first was engagement - a formal agreement made by the fathers. The second was betrothal - the ceremony where mutual promises are made. The third was marriage - approximately one year later when the bridegroom came at an unexpected time for his bride.* Guzik

1. In this parable of the ten virgins - the first two stages have already passed.
 - a) Now, the bride and her attendants are waiting for the bridegroom.
 - (1) Why 10 virgins? Because there were usually ten lamps in a bridal procession.
 - (2) By-the-way it was also customary that WHEN the bridegroom would arrive was kept secret - and the bride, along with her attendants were expected to be ready.
 - (a) So, they knew the day, but not the hour of the bridegroom’s arrival!

III. **MATTHEW 25:2–5 (NKJV) — 2 NOW FIVE OF THEM WERE WISE, AND FIVE WERE FOOLISH. 3 THOSE WHO WERE FOOLISH TOOK THEIR LAMPS AND TOOK NO OIL WITH THEM, 4 BUT THE WISE TOOK OIL IN THEIR VESSELS WITH THEIR LAMPS. 5 BUT WHILE THE BRIDEGROOM WAS DELAYED, THEY ALL SLUMBERED AND SLEPT.**

A. I want you to notice the two contrasting words in these verses - “wise” and “foolish”.

1. It appears that all of the ladies’ had good intentions. They all took a lamp with oil already in it.
 - a) But it is possible to have good intentions and make foolish choices!

IV. **MATTHEW 25:6–10 (NKJV) — 6 “AND AT MIDNIGHT A CRY WAS HEARD: ‘BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM IS COMING; GO OUT TO MEET HIM!’ 7 THEN ALL THOSE VIRGINS AROSE AND TRIMMED THEIR LAMPS. 8 AND THE FOOLISH SAID TO THE WISE, ‘GIVE US SOME OF YOUR OIL, FOR OUR LAMPS ARE GOING OUT.’ 9 BUT THE WISE ANSWERED, SAYING, ‘NO, LEST THERE SHOULD NOT BE ENOUGH FOR US AND YOU; BUT GO RATHER TO THOSE WHO SELL, AND BUY FOR YOURSELVES.’ 10 AND WHILE THEY WENT TO BUY, THE BRIDEGROOM CAME, AND THOSE WHO WERE READY WENT IN WITH HIM TO THE WEDDING; AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT.**

A. Notice a couple of the characteristics of the “foolish”.

1. They were shortsighted.
 - a) Meaning they didn’t think things through!
2. They didn’t have a plan “b”.
 - a) It must not have even considered that the bridegroom could be late.
3. They wanted the “wise” to fix their problem.
 - a) The foolish often take the easiest way out and expect others to bail them out.

B. How about the wise: **9 But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’**

1. “Go buy your own oil.”
 - a) Oil is often used in the Bible as a symbol of the Holy Spirit and the vessels of the “wise” were not only filled with oil but they had an abundant supply!
 - b) The “foolish” ran out.
2. NO ONE is prepared to meet the Bridegroom without the Holy Spirit.

V. **MATTHEW 25:11–13 (NKJV) — 11 “AFTERWARD THE OTHER VIRGINS CAME ALSO, SAYING, ‘LORD, LORD, OPEN TO US!’ 12 BUT HE ANSWERED AND SAID, ‘ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, I DO NOT KNOW YOU.’ 13 “WATCH THEREFORE, FOR YOU KNOW NEITHER THE DAY NOR THE HOUR IN WHICH THE SON OF MAN IS COMING.**

A. I would classify these “foolish” ladies as folks who fall short of salvation and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

1. Perhaps well meaning, maybe even church attenders, but they do not fully belong to the Lord.

B. We now move to the Parable of The Talents for more information of what the “kingdom of heaven” is like.

VI. **MATTHEW 25:14–19 (NKJV) — 14 “FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A MAN TRAVELING TO A FAR COUNTRY, WHO CALLED HIS OWN SERVANTS AND DELIVERED HIS GOODS TO THEM. 15 AND TO ONE HE GAVE FIVE TALENTS, TO ANOTHER TWO, AND TO ANOTHER ONE, TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS OWN ABILITY; AND IMMEDIATELY HE WENT ON A JOURNEY. 16 THEN HE WHO HAD RECEIVED THE FIVE TALENTS WENT AND TRADED WITH THEM, AND MADE ANOTHER FIVE TALENTS. 17 AND LIKEWISE HE WHO HAD RECEIVED TWO GAINED TWO MORE ALSO. 18 BUT**

HE WHO HAD RECEIVED ONE WENT AND DUG IN THE GROUND, AND HID HIS LORD'S MONEY. 19 AFTER A LONG TIME THE LORD OF THOSE SERVANTS CAME AND SETTLED ACCOUNTS WITH THEM.

- A. We can very easily continue our comparisons with the “wise” and the “foolish.”
1. None of the money belonged to the servants. It belonged to their master.
 2. The “master” was wise in that he did not push any of the men beyond their own abilities.
 - a) The first two men lived up to those abilities – they both double the master’s money.
 - b) But the third guy……not so much!

VII. MATTHEW 25:20–23 (NKJV) — 20 “SO HE WHO HAD RECEIVED FIVE TALENTS CAME AND BROUGHT FIVE OTHER TALENTS, SAYING, ‘LORD, YOU DELIVERED TO ME FIVE TALENTS; LOOK, I HAVE GAINED FIVE MORE TALENTS BESIDES THEM.’ 21 HIS LORD SAID TO HIM, ‘WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT; YOU WERE FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS, I WILL MAKE YOU RULER OVER MANY THINGS. ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR LORD.’ 22 HE ALSO WHO HAD RECEIVED TWO TALENTS CAME AND SAID, ‘LORD, YOU DELIVERED TO ME TWO TALENTS; LOOK, I HAVE GAINED TWO MORE TALENTS BESIDES THEM.’ 23 HIS LORD SAID TO HIM, ‘WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT; YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS, I WILL MAKE YOU RULER OVER MANY THINGS. ENTER INTO THE JOY OF YOUR LORD.’

- A. Nothing but praise for these guys. They were wise, prepared and faithful with what they had been given.
1. But look the excuse of the third man:

VIII. MATTHEW 25:24–28 (NKJV) — 24 “THEN HE WHO HAD RECEIVED THE ONE TALENT CAME AND SAID, ‘LORD, I KNEW YOU TO BE A HARD MAN, REAPING WHERE YOU HAVE NOT SOWN, AND GATHERING WHERE YOU HAVE NOT SCATTERED SEED. 25 AND I WAS AFRAID, AND WENT AND HID YOUR TALENT IN THE GROUND. LOOK, THERE YOU HAVE WHAT IS YOURS.’ 26 “BUT HIS LORD ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, ‘YOU WICKED AND LAZY SERVANT, YOU KNEW THAT I REAP WHERE I HAVE NOT SOWN, AND GATHER WHERE I HAVE NOT SCATTERED SEED. 27 SO YOU OUGHT TO HAVE DEPOSITED MY MONEY WITH THE BANKERS, AND AT MY COMING I WOULD HAVE RECEIVED BACK MY OWN WITH INTEREST. 28 SO TAKE THE TALENT FROM HIM, AND GIVE IT TO HIM WHO HAS TEN TALENTS.

- A. Now, what gives this parable the impact that it is intended to have is a little math:
1. In Jewish culture a Talent was 75 to 100 pounds.
 - a) One site said it was 96.4 pounds. <https://www.thecalculatorsite.com/conversions/common/grams-ounces.php>, <https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14821-weights-and-measures>
 - b) So we are going to be conservative and go with the 75 pounds.
 2. Let’s also be conservative and go with **silver**.
 - a) As of Thursday when I was preparing for this teaching – silver was **\$26.17oz**.

3. We will also be conservative and go with the “troy ounce” which is less than a normal ounce.
 - a) So there are **1093.8** troy ounces in 75 pounds. That equals **\$28,624.75**
4. Now, let's apply this to the servants:
 - a) The first guy received 5 talents from his master = **\$143,123.75!** Then he gained 5 more, so he doubled the money = **\$286,247.50**
 - b) The second guy receives 2 talents = **\$57,249.50**. And he double those = **\$114,499.00**.
 - c) The third guy buried his talent of **\$28,624.75** and gave back the same amount to his master.

IX. CONCLUSION

- A. The main point of this parable is being ready for Jesus' return!
 1. And that is determined by our stewardship of the resources that He has given us.
 2. Some think that “readiness” for Jesus' return is a rather mystical thing. But it is definitely not!
 - a) It is a matter of being about our business for the Lord.
 - b) In this parable, the master trusted them with money of great value!
 - (1) Our Master has trusted us with the most important thing in the world!
 - (a) The message of the cross!
 - c) In light of this parable, we must ask ourselves: what have we done with our knowledge? Our time? Our money? Our abilities?
 - d) The sins of omission may ultimately be more dangerous than the sins of commission. Guzik
- B. **Matthew 25:28–30 (NKJV) — 28 So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents. 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'**