

# Matthew 25:1 - 26:29

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## Day 1

Parables About the Kingdom: Read Matthew 25:1-30

### **Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins/Maidens**

1. How did the readiness of the foolish and wise virgins (bridesmaids) differ? 25:2-4 (What warning preceded the parables Jesus told? 24:42)

**FYI:** "At a Jewish wedding in Jesus' time...the bridegroom would be taken by his friends to the bride's parent's house, where his arrival would be announced and he and his party would be met by the bridesmaids."  
- Africa Bible Commentary (1163)  
"Talmudic authorities affirm that there were usually ten lamps in a bridal procession." - David Guzik

2. What happened when the bridegroom was delayed? 25:5,6 (Consider: What opportunity would this have given the foolish virgins?)
3. What happened with the foolish virgins when the bridegroom came? 25:8
  - How did the wise virgins respond? 25:9

**FYI:** "Throughout the Scriptures, **oil** is a consistent emblem of the Holy Spirit... We see that if we are not ready, no one else can help us. No one else can "give" us their "oil."  
- David Guzik

4. Why weren't the foolish virgins allowed into the feast? 25:11,12 i.e. What had their attitude and actions shown?
5. How would you state the point of the parable in your own words? 25:13

### **Parable of the Talents**

6. In the parable of the talents what responsibility did the man give His servants? 25:14

**FYI:** "If a talent was worth six thousand denarii, then it would take a day laborer twenty years to earn so much--perhaps three hundred-thousand dollars."  
- Expositor's Bible Commentary

7. How did he distribute his possessions and on what basis? 25:15 (See Ephesians 4:7)

8. What did the first two slaves do with their talents? 25:16,17 What does the phrase “at once” indicate? (*What would you say about their perspective of the talents and time they had been given?*)

- What did the third slave do? 25:18

9. Upon the master’s return, what rewards did the first two slaves receive? 24:21-23

***Digging Deeper***

What responsibilities are believers in Christ entrusted with? 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:20.

10. What excuse did the third servant give for not using his money? 25:24-25 (Consider: Who does he blame and who does he excuse?)

***FYI:*** “He assumed his role was to do nothing and thus wasted the opportunity his master had given him...God has richly endowed His people with His gifts. These are not to be ignored or treated as ornaments for display. Instead, we...must use these gifts as investments to be used to gain glory for the Master. ”- Africa Bible Commentary (1164)  
 “Grace never condones irresponsibility; even those given less are to use and develop what they have.”  
 - Expositor’s Bible Commentary

11. How did the master characterize the servant’s actions and attitude? 25:26

- If what the servant had said was true, what should he have done with the money? 25:27

12. What did the master do with the third servant’s money? 25:28

- What principal did Jesus state with this parable? 25:29 (Compare Mark 4:24,25)

***FYI:*** “The application of [The Parable of the Talents] must be understood within the context of the message of Matthew 24-25. It is first a message to the people of Israel that will live in the last days before the Lord returns... These will be alive when He returns and will have understood and believed their Lord...Those that believe Him will be rewarded in His kingdom. The basis of the reward will be their stewardship of His resources entrusted to them. Those who fear and do not believe will be rejected and judged. There is also a universal application to all mankind. From the time of the creation of mankind, each individual has been entrusted with resources of time and material wealth. Everything we have comes from God and belongs to Him...As Christians, we have additionally the most valuable resource of all – the Word of God. If we believe and understand Him, and apply His Word as good stewards, we are a blessing to others and the value of what we do multiplies.”  
 - <https://www.gotquestions.org/parable-talents.html>

**Applying the Word:** *What do you see as some of the most productive and rewarding ways you have invested your time, talents, resources or abilities for the Lord? Where have you been hesitant to take a risk? Why?*

## Day 2

Judging the Nations; Plotting Against Jesus. Read Matthew 25:31 - 26:5

### **Sheep and the Goats**

13. What will happen at the coming of the Son of Man? 25:31 (Cross-ref. 19:28; see Daniel 7:13,14; Revelation 1:7)

14. Who will be judged at that time? 25:32

- Why will some be blessed? 25:33-40 (Cross-ref. 10:42)

15. Why will some be separated out and rejected? 25:41-46 What does this say about their attitude?

#### ***Digging Deeper***

See the supplemental sheet *Kingdom Prophecies/End Times* for an additional study.

**FYI:** "This is only one of several descriptions in the Bible of future judgment...The judgment of the nations described in this chapter seems to be distinct. It probably describes the judgment of the nations preceding the millennial kingdom, to determine national roles in the millennium."  
- David Guzik

"Jesus begins the parable by saying it concerns His return in glory to set up His kingdom (verse 31). Therefore, the setting of this event is at the beginning of the millennium, after the tribulation. All those on earth at that time will be brought before the Lord."  
- gotquestions.org

### **Jesus Predicts His Death**

16. *After seeing Jesus enter triumphantly into Jerusalem, perform miracles, refute and silence enemies and give amazing teachings about the kingdom and His rule, what do you think the disciples thought when Jesus reminded them about His death? 26:1,2*

- What connection is there between the Passover and Jesus' death? See Exodus 12:13 and 1 Peter 1:19.

17. What was going on behind the scenes? 26:3,4

- How were they going to arrest Jesus? What does that say about their basis for arresting Him? (See John 15:25)
- What was restraining them? 26:5

18. What reasons does John 11:47,48 give for their animosity?

- Who else were they trying to kill and why? John 12:10,11

19. What could Jesus have done at this point? How easy would it have been for Him to avoid being crucified?

**Applying the Word:** *What are some of the best ways or opportunities you know of to help feed or clothe those who are in need, show hospitality, care for the sick or reach out to the imprisoned? In which of these areas do you find you reach out most naturally? Where do you struggle?*

## Day 3

Anointing; Betrayal. Read Matthew 26:6-16

### **Jesus Anointed**

20. Observe the following (26:6-9) about Jesus' anointing:

- Where did this occur? (For when it occurred see Mark 14:1)
- Who did the anointing?
- How was Jesus anointed?
- Who was there?
- How did the disciples react? (See John 12:5,6)

### ***Digging Deeper***

Matthew 26:6-13 and Mark 14:1-9 describe the same anointing. Luke 7:36-50 seems to describe an earlier anointing by a "sinful" woman in the house of a Pharisee. John 12:1-3 gives an account of an anointing by Mary that occurred 6 days before Passover. Why might there have been more than one anointing?

21. How did Jesus defend the woman and her actions? 26:10

- How did He defend her priorities? 26:11

**FYI:** "Jesus' reply did not say *that* their concern for the poor was misplaced, but rather that their time with Him was very short. By contrast, they can give as much as they want to the poor at any time."  
- Africa Bible Commentary (1165)

22. What significance did Jesus give to the woman's actions? 26:12

- How did He honor her even further? 26:13

23. How would you describe the atmosphere in the house? (*How do you picture the looks on peoples' faces or the tone in their words? How do you think the disciples and the woman felt at the start versus the end?*)

### **Judas Agrees to Betrayal**

24. Who instigated Jesus' betrayal? 26:14

- From Luke 22:3, what do you learn about Judas and this event?

25. What price was Judas paid? 26:15

- What reasons do you think Judas had for betraying Jesus? Do you think it was about money?

**FYI:** "Thirty pieces of silver was the price of a slave (see Ex. 21:32). Zechariah had foreshadowed this sum in his prophetic actions (in Zech. 11:12,13). Note the contrast between the costly devotion of the woman and the small price of Judas' betrayal."  
- The Nelson Study Bible (1625)

"Judas was a close friend, a compatriot, a companion of three years and the trusted treasurer of the group. That is what makes his betrayal so horrible...Judas' problem was that he followed Jesus for what he could get out of it. His aim was to make it to the very top of the 'cabinet' of the new regime in the kingdom of God."  
- Africa Bible Commentary (1165)

26. What plan was in place? 26:16 (See also Luke 22:6b)

**Applying the Word:** *When you are motivated by love and gratitude to the Lord, what are ways that you like to respond?*

## Day 4

Jesus Reveals His Betrayal; Celebrates the Passover: Read Matthew 26:17-30

27. What was unusual about the instructions Jesus gave the disciples concerning the Passover meal? 26:17-19 (Who were these disciples? What did they find? Luke 22:8-12)
- What elements of secrecy were in the planning of the meal? (Why would secrecy be needed? See 26:16)

**FYI:** "The **Passover** was the first of the three great festivals of the Hebrew people. It referred to the sacrifice of a lamb in Egypt when the people of Israel were slaves. The Hebrews smeared the blood of the lamb on their doorposts as a signal to God that He should "pass over" their houses when He destroyed all the firstborn of Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let His people go.

Passover was observed on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first month, Abib, with the service beginning in the evening (Lev 23:6). It was on the evening of this day that Israel left Egypt. Passover commemorated this departure from Egypt in haste. Unleavened bread was used in the celebration because this showed that the people had no time to put leaven in their bread as they ate their final meal as slaves in Egypt...

In New Testament times, Passover became a pilgrim festival. Large numbers gathered in Jerusalem to observe this annual celebration. Jesus was crucified in the city during one of these Passover celebrations."

- Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

28. What revelation did Jesus give at the meal? 26:21 (How did He feel about this? John 13:21)
- How did the disciples react? 26:22 (See John 13:22. What does that say about the trust that Judas had among the group?)
29. How did Jesus reveal the betrayer? 26:23 (See Psalms 41:9) What would you say about Jesus' command of the situation?
- What warning did Jesus give Judas? 26:24 (What opportunity was He giving Judas in that moment?)

30. How did Judas respond even with this knowledge? 26:25

- From John 13:23-30, what else happened? (Note: Did the disciples know that Judas was the betrayer? 13:28,29 What do you think they might have done had they known?)

31. What symbolism did the bread eaten during the Passover have? Deuteronomy 16:3

- What significance did Christ give to it? 26:26
- What meaning did He give to the cup? 26:27,28

**FYI:** "The Last Supper brought the Old Testament observance of the Passover feast to its fulfillment. Passover was an especially holy event for the Jewish people in that it commemorated the time when God spared them from the plague of physical death and brought them out of slavery in Egypt ([Exodus 11:1—13:16](#)). During the Last Supper with His apostles, Jesus took two symbols associated with Passover and imbued them with fresh meaning as a way to remember His sacrifice, which saves us from spiritual death and delivers us from spiritual bondage." - got questions

32. When will this Passover be celebrated again? 26:29 (See Revelation 19:9)

**Applying the Word:** What impresses you the most about Jesus in these last few days?