

TELOS

Telos (Greek): def.: striving for a goal, completing your purpose . It means achieving maturity, and undivided wholeness in a person's behavior. For the Christian it means becoming like Jesus.

"We proclaim Christ, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ"

Col. 1:28

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Truthview Alliance Church

Matthew 25

Have you ever asked the question "What would it be like?" This question I'm sure had crossed the disciples' minds on several occasions throughout the ministry of their teacher and Lord Jesus Christ, and in many ways still crosses our minds today. Just think of the movie Jurassic Park when a scientist re-animates dinosaurs from DNA on a small island. The wonder and amazement experienced by the crew of people that he decided to include in his successful studies was dramatic. In the same way this passage in Matthew spoke to the disciples. What will the kingdom of heaven be like? You can almost hear a pin drop as Jesus tries to explain the way in which this kingdom will work. A kingdom of servanthood and social justice unlike anything ever witnessed. A kingdom which will bring about the reign of their teacher and Lord, and a kingdom in which love of one another is foundational!!

The three parables speak directly about the coming kingdom. It is through these parables that the disciples are urged to be in a state of constant readiness, to use the gifts that have been given them and to serve with humility without any discrimination. Like the disciples we as Christians can wonder about the return of our Lord all we want but that won't give any closer clue as to what will take place. Instead we are to concern ourselves with the job at hand; serving others and using the gifts that God has given us to the glory of God.

FOLLOW ME

Experience the Loving Leadership of Jesus

Kingdom Principle #5:

Jesus intends to reach the world by creating safe kingdom communities of humble, transparent followers.

Memory Verse:

His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

Matthew 25:21

DAILY BIBLE STUDY

Monday

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

Passage Preview

Jesus continues to prepare His followers for future events, whose fulfillment will take place according to the Father's timetable. Jesus has in mind the future kingdom and in this passage He's dealing with the crucial question of who will be in the kingdom celebration and who won't.

Key Words

- Foolish: Shortsighted, irresponsible, senseless.
- Oil: Regularly symbolic in scripture of the Holy Spirit.

Read Matthew 25:1-13

¹ "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

⁹ " 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

¹² "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

¹³ "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

1. What phrase stood out to you? Why?

Read Matthew 25:14-23

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

1. What phrase stood out to you? Why?
2. What thought or insight was most meaningful to you? Why?
3. God has entrusted some talents and gifts to you. What are your gifts? Are you using them?
4. What do you think it means to be a faithful servant?

5. **Kingdom Questions:** As you serve the King and his followers by using your talents, what should be the attitude of our heart when we see a 100% return on our investment?

Summary

The parable of the talents teaches that “unequal gifts, if used with equal faithfulness, will be equally rewarded.” Jesus continues to prepare His followers for His departure.

Prayer

What gifts are there that you may be ignoring? Are you still trying to understand what gifts God has blessed you with? Pray that God will give you added direction in determining what gifts you may have. Ask Him to direct you in the right direction so that you may use your gifts faithfully for His purposes.

Wednesday

Parable of the Talents, Continued - Matthew 25:24-30

Passage Preview

Jesus continues his parable, warning His disciples to wisely use their resources during His absence.

Key Words

- Darkness: Eternal punishment of hell.
- Lazy: Shiftless, slothful, unwilling to work.

Read Matthew 25:24-30

²⁴ "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸ "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The kind of religion that God requires, and will accept, does not consist in weak, dull, and lifeless “wouldings” – those weak inclinations that lack convictions – that raise us but a little above indifference. God, in his word, greatly insists that we be in good earnest, fervent in spirit, and that our hearts be engaged vigorously in our religion: “Be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord” (Romans 12:11)
Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

1. What phrase stood out to you? Why?
2. What thought or insight was most meaningful to you? Why?
3. **Kingdom Questions:** Have you buried your talents or gifts because you have an unhealthy fear of your King? Write down any fears that come to mind and ask the Holy Spirit to set you free.
4. Do you have a personal vision for a ministry that could deploy your talent? What is it? Who could assist you in seeing it become a reality?

Summary

What we do with what God has entrusted to us has eternal implications. Heart-level Christ followers do not sit on the sidelines as complacent pew sitters. God has called you to be a player in his kingdom movement. What could be more exciting?

Prayer

Father help me to understand that I have a role to play in your kingdom. I ask for the strength which at times is so hard to muster, to become involved in service to you through any avenue that you see fit. Move me to action Lord!

Thursday

The Sheep and the Goats - Matthew 25:31-46

Passage Preview

The return of Christ is the theme of this section as He returns to set up His 1,000-year Kingship on earth. Jesus explains who will rule with Him and who will suffer eternal punishment for refusing to respond to His offer of salvation.

Key Words

- Eternal Fire: Picture of the torment which accompanies everlasting separation from God.
- Eternal Punishment: Everlasting payment for sin and rejecting Christ.

Read Matthew 25:31-46

³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

⁴⁰ "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

⁴¹ "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

⁴⁴ "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

⁴⁵ "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

⁴⁶ "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

1. What phrase stood out to you? Why?

2. What thought or insight was most meaningful to you? Why?

3. Jesus refers to good deeds or actions done by the sheep as the reason for entrance into His kingdom. Why? How does this idea relate to the traditional doctrine known as “justification by faith alone”?

4. **Kingdom Question:** Why is hell necessary?

Summary

God has called all followers to be His ministers. The heart of God is driven to lovingly care for people. Pursue your calling by ministering to the practical and spiritual needs of people.

Prayer

Spend some time in contemplation as to where you feel God might be calling you in ministry. Ask God to empower you as you walk in his call.

Friday

“The Beauty of Kingdom Community”

Read Chapter 25 in the Follow Me Book

Introduction

The fragrance of kingdom community is relational harmony. Right relationships mirror the relational intimacy inherent in the Trinity. As God has experienced loving relationships as Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, kingdom followers experience biblical community when they love one another.

1. Based on the diagram on page 228, why is relational harmony so essential in the church?



