

Matthew 25

Parable of the Ten Virgins

^{25:1} "The reign of God can be likened to ten bridesmaids who took their torches and went out to welcome the groom. ²Five of them were foolish, while the other five were sensible. ³The foolish ones, in taking their torches, brought no oil along, ⁴but the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their torches. ⁵The groom delayed his coming, so they all began to nod, then to fall asleep. ⁶At midnight someone shouted, 'The groom is here! Come out and greet him!' ⁷At the outcry all the virgins woke up and got their torches ready. ⁸The foolish ones said to the sensible, 'Give us some of your oil. Our torches are going out.' ⁹But the sensible ones replied, 'No, there may not be enough for you and us. You had better go and buy yourselves some.' ¹⁰While they went off to buy it the groom arrived, and the ones who were ready went in to the wedding with him. Then the door was barred. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came back. 'Master, master!' they cried. 'Open the door for us.' ¹²But he answered, 'I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³The moral is: keep your eyes open, for you know not the day or the hour."

Parable of the Silver Pieces

¹⁴"The case of a man who was going on a journey is similar. He called in his servants and handed his funds over to them according to each man's abilities. ¹⁵To one he disbursed five thousand silver pieces, to a second two thousand, and to a third a thousand. Then he went away. ¹⁶Immediately the man who received the five thousand went to invest it and made another five. ¹⁷In the same way, the man who received two thousand doubled his figure. ¹⁸The man who received one thousand went off instead and dug a hole in the ground, where he buried his master's money. ¹⁹After a long absence, the master of those servants came home and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received the five thousand came forward bringing the additional five. 'My lord,' he said, 'you let me have five thousand. See, I have made five thousand more.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done! You are an industrious and reliable servant. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share your master's joy!' ²²The man who received the two thousand then stepped forward. 'My lord,' he said, 'you have entrusted me with two thousand and I have made two thousand more.' ²³His master said to him, 'Cleverly done! You too are an industrious and reliable servant. Since you were dependable in a small matter I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share your master's joy!'

²⁴“Finally the man who had received the thousand stepped forward. ‘My lord,’ he said ‘I knew you were a hard man. You reap where you did not sow and gather where you did not scatter, ²⁵so out of fear I went off and buried your thousand silver pieces in the ground. Here is your money back.’ ²⁶His master exclaimed: ‘You worthless, lazy lout! You know I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter. ²⁷All the more reason to deposit my money with the bankers, so that on my return I could have had it back with interest. ²⁸You there! Take the thousand away from him and give it to the man with the ten thousand. ²⁹Those who have will get more until they grow rich, while those who have not will lose even the little they have. ³⁰Throw this worthless servant into the darkness outside, where he can wail and grind his teeth.”

The Last Judgment

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, he will sit upon his royal throne, ³²and all the nations will be assembled before him. Then he will separate them into two groups, as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. ³³The sheep he will place on his right hand, the goats on his left. ³⁴The king will say to those on his right: ‘Come, you have my Father’s blessing! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me.’ ³⁷Then the just will ask him: ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or see you thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸When did we welcome you away from home or clothe you in your nakedness? ³⁹When did we visit you when you were ill or in prison?’ ⁴⁰The king will answer them: ‘I assure you, as often as you did it for one of the least of my brothers, you did it for me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left: ‘Out of my sight, you condemned, into that everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels! ⁴²I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink. ⁴³I was away from home and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing. I was ill and in prison and you did not come to comfort me.’ ⁴⁴Then they in turn will ask: ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or away from home or naked or ill or in prison and not attend you in your needs?’ ⁴⁵He will answer them: ‘I assure you, as often as you neglected to do it to one of these least ones, you neglected to do it to me.’ ⁴⁶These will go off to eternal punishment and the just to eternal life.”