

5. At the final banquet, where will you find yourself? Why?

Pray: Thank the Lord for his promise to return for you, and ask him to keep you prepared by a life of faith in him and fruitfulness for him.

February 24 (Saturday)
The Parable of the Talents

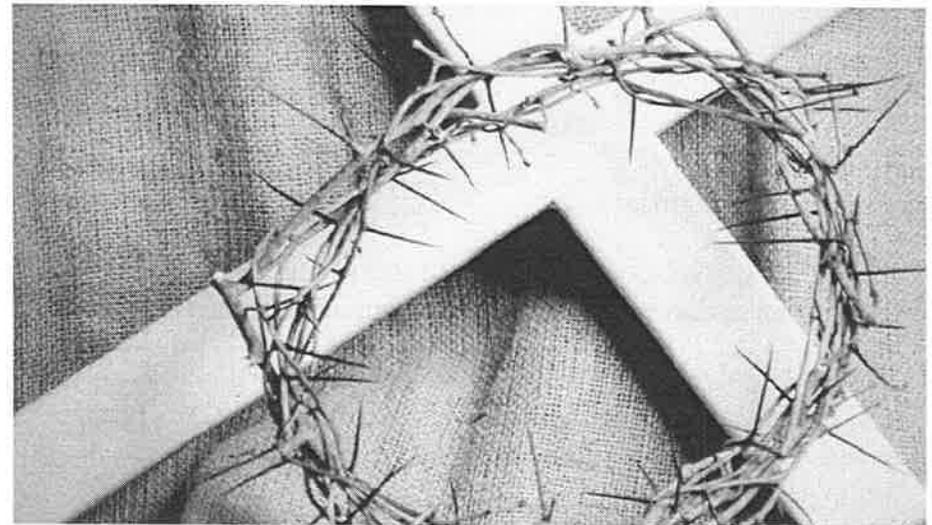
Matthew 25:14-30
Time: A.D. 30, Tuesday

Jesus continues to prepare his disciples for the time between his departure from them until he returns as the King of power and glory. The parable of the ten virgins emphasized heart readiness. The parable of the talents is also about being ready, but the emphasis is about our reliability to fulfil the responsibilities he has entrusted to us. The mark of readiness here is in using our God-given resources to accomplish God's purposes.

1. What do each of these represent in this story: the master? the journey? the talents? the servants? Do the talents in this story represent abilities, gifts, or skills? Or are they something else, such as responsibilities?
2. Is the master's treatment of the servant with one talent fair? Why or why not?
3. What does this story have to do with Jesus' future return as King of power and glory?
4. What kind of responsibility do you feel toward God regarding your talents (abilities, gifts)?
5. If the Master returned today, what would he say about how well you have been fulfilling your responsibilities by using what he gave you?

Pray: Ask the Lord to make you ready for his return by using your God-given resources, and your gifts to serve him and benefit others according to his purposes.

Remember Christ Draw Near to the Cross



2nd Week

February 19-25, 2018

February 19 (Monday)

The Parable of the Tenants

Matthew 21:33-46

Time: A.D. 30, Tuesday

1. In v.33, when the land owner “put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower” for the land before leasing it to the tenants, what was he hoping to happen?
 2. What the tenants were thinking when they said, “This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance?” What inheritance were they trying to get and what were they actually getting?
 3. V.42 – what have they rejected? Why does this rejected stone seem so unappealing to them?
 4. V.43 – do you see the kingdom of God that has been entrusted to you? How do you go about producing fruit?
-

February 20 (Tuesday)

The Parable of the Marriage Feast

Matthew 22:1-14

Time: A.D. 30, Tuesday

1. How did the king go about preparing and starting the wedding feast? What does this tell us about the king’s heart? Do you see the same invitation to you?
 2. Verse 5: Why did the invited rather attend to their own businesses and not go to the banquet? Did you ever declined an invitation to God’s feast?
 3. Verse 8: “those who were invited were not worthy,” what determines our “worthiness?”
 4. Verse 14: what is the difference between “called” and “chosen?” What is the part we play when we are “called?”
-

February 21 (Wednesday)

The Resurrected Life – the Sadducees’ Question

Matthew 22:23-33

Time: A.D. 30, Tuesday

1. What does the hypothetical question of the Sadducees show? What were their mistakes that Jesus point out?
2. What do we understand from Jesus’ answer about human relationships in the resurrected life and the new order that follows? Will pain and problems that exist with world relationships repeat by then?

3. In verse 31-32: what important mistake of the Sadducees’ belief did Jesus point out? From the perspective of eternity, what gift does the “God of the living” endows to us?
-

February 22 (Thursday)

Signs of the end of the age and the coming of the Son of Man

Mark 13:1-37

Time: A.D. 30, Tuesday p.m.

1. V.6: “many would come in my name.” Also see v.21-22. How do you distinguish the real Christ from false ones? What should win our allegiance ultimately?
 2. V. 9-13: how do you feel about being persecuted in the end times? Does God care? Are you ready?
 3. How should I know if certain signs I see now are signs of the end time? What then should be a faithful response to disaster?
 4. V.32-37 What is Jesus’ advice to the surfacing of end time signs? Which phrase keeps appearing repeatedly? In the tribulation, what a real Christ follower would actually do according to Jesus’ teaching?
-

February 23 (Friday)

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

Time: A.D. 30, Tuesday p.m.

Jesus would soon be put on trial and walk the road to the Cross. He would soon die to pay the price for our sin, be buried, rise again, and then go to be with the Father in heaven. He wanted his disciples to be prepared for the time between his departure from earth until he comes again in power and glory. The story of the ten virgins stresses the importance of being prepared for that day of his return.

1. To what event in history does the parable apply? How does it relate to Matthew 24?
2. In what way were the ten virgins/bridesmaids alike? Different?
3. What is the point of the parable? How does it compare with Matthew 24:42?
4. What is the “oil” that keeps your “lamp” lit?