

**Prepare for
The Lord's Return
Matthew 25**

I. Parable of Ten Virgins – 25:1-13

1. Wedding custom in Jesus' time – 1
Groom went to bride's home to claim his bride
After farewells he would bring her in procession
Back to his home for the wedding
In the evening guests would go to meet them
They would carry lamps to light the procession
2. Kingdom of heaven like ten virgins – 1-5
There were five wise and five foolish
Five foolish took no oil for lamps
Five wise took oil for their lamps
Procession was delayed & they all slept
3. Awakened at midnight – 6-9
Heard the cry "Here comes the bridegroom"
They all trimmed the wicks of their lamps
The foolish had no oil for their lamps
Asked the wise to give them oil
Wise refused, lest they might run out
Told foolish to go buy oil for their lamps
4. Foolish missed the wedding – 10-12
The door was closed they were shut out
5. You need to be prepared – 13
You do not know the exact time of His return
Day or the hour – cp. Matt. 24:36

II. Parable of the Talents – 25:14-30

1. Point of the parable – wasted opportunity
Not rewarding believers for using their talents
Note 28-30 unwise servant is cast into darkness
2. Each servant given a great gift – 14-15
A talent weighed 75-100 pounds – great value
3. Some took advantage of the gift – 16-17
Each made good use of the gift
One with 5 talents made 5 more
One with 2 talents made 2 more
4. One buried his in the ground - 18
Did not see its value so did not use it
5. The Master returns to evaluate – 19-30
Rewards the first for using what he had – 20-21
Rewards the second as well – 22-23
Third returned gift unused – 24-25
He did not value the opportunity given to him
Returned it to the Master unused
Rejected goodness & graciousness of Master
Master pronounces judgment – 26-30
Wicked – in his view of his master
Slothful – in not using God-given opportunity
It is taken from him – given to one who will use it
He is cast into outer darkness– weeping, suffering

III. Return of the King – 25:31-46

1. Christ will return in His glory – 31
All the holy angels will attend His return
He shall sit upon His throne of glory
2. He will separate sheep from goats – 32-33
Separation in Matt. 13 – tares & drag-net
Determine who goes into kingdom
3. Reward of the righteous – 34-40
Righteous (37) – Declared righteous in Christ
Rewarded for ministry to His brethren
4. Retribution of the Wicked – 25:41-45
Banished from His presence – 41
Into everlasting fire prepared for Satan & angels
Those who join Satan's rebellion share his end
No evidence of righteousness
Mistreated the Lord's people
5. The eternal state – 46
Wicked go into everlasting punishment
Righteous go into life eternal

**In the Shadow
of the Cross
Matthew 26:1-16**

I. Preparation for the Cross – 26:1-5

1. Necessity of the Cross – 1
Having spoken of glory & His kingdom
Jesus refocuses on His sacrifice
This is the purpose of His coming – Matt. 1:21
2. God's Plan for the Cross – 2
In 2 days – Feast of Passover
God's appointed time
Pictured in yearly feast of Passover
Betrayal and crucifixion
Betrayal – depth of human sin – Psa. 41:9
Crucifixion – depth of human cruelty
3. Man's plot for the cross – 3-4
Leaders gather in palace of High Priest
Those appointed to serve God rebel
Willing to use whatever method
Plan "subtly to kill Him"
Seek to control when they would do it
Not on the feast day – Passover
Lest there be an uproar of the people

II. Mary's Preparation – 26:6-13

1. Anointing Jesus – 6-7
Woman is Mary of Bethany – Jn. 12:3
Ointment was very precious (costly)
300 pence (denarii) about a year's wages
Poured on the head of Jesus
2. Disciples indignation – 8-9
What a waste – could have helped the poor
3. Jesus' response – 10-13
She did it for His burial (anointing His body)
One disciple who believed what He said
Perpetual memorial of her faith

III. Judas' Plot – 26:14-16

1. One of the twelve – 14
One chosen to be an intimate friend
One given authority as an Apostle
One blessed with teaching & miracles of Jesus
2. Went to chief priests – 14-15
He sought them & made an offer
How much will you give me?
They promised him 30 pieces of silver
Zechariah 11:12-13
3. Looked for an opportunity to betray - 15