

Message Twelve

The Manifestation of the Kingdom of the Heavens—The Prophecy of the Kingdom (3)

Scriptures reading: Matt. 25:1-30.

I. The prophecy of the Kingdom concerning the Church—Matt. 24:32-25:30:

C. Matt. 25:1-13 reveals that we should be watchful in life:

1. “At the time the kingdom of the heavens will be likened to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom” —v. 1.
 - a. Virgins signify the believers in the aspect of life; it is absolutely a matter of what we are, loving the Lord Jesus—2Cor. 11:2; Rev. 21:2; S.S. 6:13; 1:3.
 - b. Lamps signify the spirit of the believers, which contains the Spirit of God as the oil—Prov. 20:27; Rom. 8:16; Heb. 1:9; Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:15-16.
 - c. “Went forth” indicates that the believers are going out of the world to meet the coming Christ
2. “The prudent took oil in their vessels with their lamps” —Matt. 25:4.
 - a. Vessels signify the soul of the believers—Rom. 9:21, 23.
 - b. Having oil in our lamps signifies having the Spirit of God dwelling in our spirit; taking oil in our vessels signifies having the fullness of the Spirit saturating our soul.
 - c. If we are prudent virgins, we will have not only the ordinary portion of oil—the Spirit in our spirit—but also the extra portion of oil—the Spirit in our soul for our transformation—2Cor. 3:18.
 - d. To be transformed is to be saturated with the extra portion of the oil, to be filled with the Spirit in all our inward parts—Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23.
3. “Go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves” —Matt. 25:9b.
 - a. To buy means to pay a price; we have to pay the price for the filling of the Spirit in our soul; the infilling of the Holy Spirit is obtained at a cost, such as giving up the world, dealing with the self, loving the Lord above all, and counting all things loss for Christ—Matt. 16:24-26; Mark 12:30.
 - b. If we are willing to pay the price, the Spirit will fill us and saturate us, and we will have the extra portion of oil prepared in our vessel, making us ready for the Lord’s coming back—Matt. 24:44.
4. “As they were going away to buy, the bridegroom came; and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast. And the door was shut” —25:10.
 - a. “Those who were ready” must be those who are invited to the marriage dinner of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9), which is the wedding feast in Matt. 22:2.
 - b. The foolish virgins, who do not take oil in their vessels and who are not ready when the Lord Jesus comes, will miss the wedding feast—25:11-12.
5. “Watch therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour” —v. 13.
 - a. In order to be watchful, we need the infilling of the Spirit, the spreading of the Spirit from our spirit to every part of our inward being—Eph. 5:18; 4:23.
 - b. If we would be prudent virgins, those who are watchful in life, we need to redeem the time; wisdom is connected to time—5:16.

D. Matt. 25:14-30 reveals that we should be faithful in service:

1. The Lord likened Himself to a man going abroad (into the heavens) and delivering to his slaves his possessions—v. 14.
 - a. Slaves signify believers viewed from the aspect of service—1Cor. 7:22-23; 2Pet. 1:1; James 1:1; Rom. 1:1.
 - b. “His possessions” signifies the church (Eph. 1:18) with all the believers, who constitute God’s household—Matt. 24:45.
2. To one of his slaves he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one—to each according to his own ability—25:15.
 - a. Talents signify spiritual gifts (spiritual skills and abilities) —Rom. 12:6; 1Cor. 12:4; 1Pet. 4:10; 2Tim. 1:6.

- b. All the members of the Body of Christ are gifted, and all are gifts—Rom. 12:6a; Eph. 4:7-8.
 - c. The infilling of the Spirit in life enables us to use the spiritual gift in service (work), and the spiritual gift in service matches the filling of the Spirit in life, that we may be a perfect member of Christ—cf. John 7:38; 1Pet. 4:10.
 - d. “Own ability” signifies our natural ability, which is constituted of God’s creation and our learning—cf. Acts. 7:22.
3. The five-talented one traded with his talents to gain another five talents, and the two-talented one traded with his talents to gain another two talents—Matt. 25:16-17.
 - a. Trading with talents signifies using the gift the Lord has given us—cf. 1Tim. 4:14; 2Tim. 1:6.
 - b. Gaining other talents signifies that the gift we received from the Lord has been used to the fullest extent, without any loss or waste—cf. 2Tim. 4:5b.
 4. The one-talented one went off, dug in the earth, and hid his master’s money—Matt. 25:18.
 - a. The main emphasis in this parable is on the one-talented one, who receive the smallest gift; it is very easy for the least gifted ones to mistreat or ignore their gift.
 - b. The earth signifies the world; thus “dug in the earth” signifies becoming involved in the world to bury the gift we have received from the Lord.
 - c. “Hid his master’s money” signifies rendering the Lord’s gift useless, letting it lie waste under the cloak of certain earthy excuses; to make any excuse for not using the Lord’s gift is to hide the gift.
 5. When the master returned to settle accounts with his slaves, the five-talented one and the two-talented one both received a reward—vv. 19-23.
 - a. The Lord will settle accounts with us at His judgement seat, where our living, conduct, and work will be judged for reward or punishment—1Cor. 4:5; Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12; 1Cor. 3:13-15.
 - b. Lord’s appraisal and reward to the five talented one and the two talented one are the same: “Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.” — Matt. 25:21, 23.
 6. The one-talented one was rebuked by his master and was punished—vv. 24-30.
 - a. The one-talented one said that he was afraid and went off and hid his master’s talent in the earth, telling his master that he kept his gift.
 - b. From generation to generation, all the difficulties lie with the one-talented ones, and as a result there is the weight of death in the church.
 - c. In the coming kingdom the Lord’s gift will be taken away from the slothful believers, and they will be cast into the outer darkness, but the faithful believers’ gift will be increased, and they will enter into the uttermost enjoyment of Christ—vv. 28-30.

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Reference Scripture Verses:

Matt. 25:1-13. **1** At that time the kingdom of the heavens will be likened to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom. **2** And five of them were foolish and five were prudent. **3** For the foolish, when they took their lamps, did not take oil with them; **4** But the prudent took oil in their vessels with their lamps. **5** And while the bridegroom delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. **6** But at midnight there was a cry, Behold, the bridegroom! Go forth to meet him! **7** Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their own lamps. **8** And the foolish said to the prudent, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. **9** But the prudent answered, saying, Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves. **10** And as they were going away to buy, the bridegroom came; and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast. And the door was shut. **11** And later the rest of the virgins came also, saying, Lord, lord, open to us! **12** But he answered and said, Truly I say to you, I do not know you. **13** Watch therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Matt. 25:14-30. **14** For the kingdom of the heavens is just like a man about to go abroad, who called his own slaves and delivered to them his possessions. **15** To one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability. And he went abroad. **16** Immediately he who had received the five talents went and traded with them and gained another five. **17** Similarly, he *who had received* the two gained another two. **18** But he who had received the one went off and dug in the earth and hid his master's money. **19** Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. **20** And he who had received the five talents came and brought another five talents, saying, Master, you delivered to me five talents; behold, I have gained another five talents. **21** His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master. **22** And he *who had received* the two talents also came and said, Master, you delivered to me two talents; behold, I have gained another two talents. **23** His master said to him, Well *done*, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master. **24** Then he who had received the one talent also came and said, Master, I knew about you, that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow. **25** And I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the earth; behold, you have what is yours. **26** And his master answered and said to him, Evil and slothful slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not winnow. **27** Therefore you should have deposited my money with the money changers; and when I came, I would have recovered what is mine with interest. **28** Take away therefore the talent from him and give *it* to him who has the ten talents. **29** For to every one who has, *more* shall be given, and he shall abound; but from him who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken away from him. **30** And cast out the useless slave into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

I.

1Cor. 11:2 But I praise you because in all things you have remembered me and hold fast the things that I have handed down even as I handed *them* down to you.

Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

S.S. 6:13 Return, return, O Shulammitte; Return, return, that we may gaze at you. Why should you gaze at the Shulammitte, As upon the dance of two camps?

S.S. 1:3 Your anointing oils have a pleasant fragrance; Your name is like ointment poured forth; Therefore the virgins love you.

Prov. 20:27 The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, Searching all the innermost parts of the inner being.

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

Heb. 1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of exultant joy above Your partners";

Matt. 5:14-16. **14** You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden. **15** Nor do *men* light a lamp and place it under the bushel, but on the lampstand; and it shines to all who are in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light ^ashine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in the heavens.

Phil. 2:15-16. 15 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world, **16** Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

Rom. 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?

Rom. 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

2Cor. 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

Eph. 4:23 And *that* you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

Matt. 16:24-26. 24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. **25** For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it; but whoever loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it. **26** For what shall a man be profited if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul-life? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul-life?

Mark 12:30 And you shall love the Lord your God from your whole heart and from your whole soul and from your whole mind and from your whole strength."

Matt. 24:44 For this reason you also be ready, because at an hour when you do not expect *it*, the Son of Man is coming.

Rev. 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.

Matt. 22:2 The kingdom of the heavens has become like a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son.

Eph. 5:16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Eph. 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,

1Cor. 7:22-23. 22 For the slave who has been called in the Lord is the Lord's freedman; likewise the free man who has been called is Christ's slave. **23** You were bought with a price; do not be slaves of men.

2Pet. 1:1 Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have been allotted faith equally precious as ours in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

James 1:1 James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the dispersion: Rejoice!

Rom. 1:1 Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

Eph. 1:18 The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Matt. 24:45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?

Rom. 12:6 And having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

1Cor. 12:4 But there are distinctions of gifts, but the same Spirit;

1Pet. 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ¹ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

2Tim. 1:6 For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Eph. 4:7-8. **7** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. **8** Therefore *the Scripture* says, "Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men."

John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.

Acts 7:22 And Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was powerful in his words and works.

1Tim. 4:14 Do not neglect the gift which is in you, which was given to you by means of prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

2Tim. 4:5 But you, be sober in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelist, fully accomplish your ministry.

1Cor. 4:5 So then do not judge anything before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and make manifest the counsels of the hearts, and then there will be praise to each from God.

Matt. 16:27 For the Son of Man is to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will repay each man according to his doings.

Rev. 22:12 Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me to render to each one as his work is.

1Cor. 3:13-15. **13** The work of each will become manifest; for the day will declare *it*, because it is revealed by fire, and the fire itself will prove each one's work, of what sort it is. **14** If anyone's work which he has built upon *the foundation* remains, he will receive a reward; **15** If anyone's work is consumed, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.