

A note from Kathy

Although we do not know the exact time of Jesus' return, it was his desire that we recognize the signs. He wanted us to have this hope and to live a life that reflected this hope each day.

Observation

1. Jesus used the familiar to teach on something unfamiliar. Those who desired understanding of spiritual truth could find it. Briefly fill in the chart below; with a different color of ink, write a short sentence pinpointing the truth being taught.

The kingdom of heaven is like...

Matthew 13:24	...a man sowing good seed in his field. While he slept his enemy sowed weeds. Let them grow until harvest. 1 st the weeds bundled and burned, 2 nd the wheat gathered in to the barn. <i>We have an enemy.</i>
Matthew 13:31	
Matthew 13:33	
Matthew 13:44	
Matthew 13:45	
Matthew 13:47	
Matthew 13:52	
Matthew 18:23	
Matthew 20:1	
Matthew 22:2	
Matthew 25:1	
Matthew 25:14	

After looking up all 12 comparisons do you feel you have a better understanding of the spiritual truth Jesus shared? How are believers to live until Christ returns?

2. In Matthew 25:1-13 we read a parable about 10 virgins who are waiting for the bridegroom to return. What are the words used to describe the two groups?
3. What were the two distinguishing characteristics of these virgins? What things did they have in common? How did they differ?
4. What did 5 of them want the others to do for them? What was the answer they were given? Just state the facts.
5. Verses 16-30 tell a story, a parable about a man who went on a journey. Before leaving what did he do? (A talent is a measure of gold or silver.)
6. The key characters in this parable are the master and 3 of his servants. Each servant was entrusted with a different amount of money. How did the master decide how much each man would be entrusted with?
7. What happened while he was gone?
8. "After a long time" what happened?
9. When the master returned, he questioned the first two servants. Notice what he called them. He did not commend them for their superior financial abilities or their superior intellect. What did he commend them for?
10. What words are used to describe the character of the third servant in verses 25-26?
11. Each servant was called in to give report.
How had the first servant done?
The second?
The third?
12. The third servant tried to shift blame, claiming to be afraid of his master. Look at verse 27; what was the truth about this servant?
13. What was the outcome for each of the servants?
#1
#2
#3

14. Jesus made it very clear that there would be a separation one day. What did he call these two groups in verse 32?
15. Where would each be placed?
16. What would be the outcome for each group according to verse 34 and verse 41?
17. In verses 35-46, how did Jesus say those on his right had shown their love for him?
18. How did he say those on his left had neglected to love him?
19. Look at verse 46, what was the outcome for each of these two groups?

Application

1. On the back of this page, write a paragraph sharing the truth taught in the parable of the 10 virgins. How is the Lord speaking to you through this parable?
2. In the Bible the Holy Spirit is often referred to as oil. With that in mind, what is the distinction between these women? Read Romans 8:9 to help gain a greater understanding. From the outside we may all look alike, but what is the distinguishing mark of a true believer?

Romans 8:9 *"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ."*

3. Why do you believe the oil was not shared? Remember this did not happen; it was a parable to help them see the spiritual truth. Keep in mind the central truth being taught in this parable.
4. In light of verse 13, how are believers to live?
5. Verses 14-30 tell of a parable Jesus shared concerning a master who was going on a journey. Each of his three servants had been given an opportunity. What is the central spiritual truth Jesus was trying to teach by sharing this parable?

6. In this parable we see a man who was leaving on a journey; he entrusted his money to his servants. What are some things the Lord entrusted to each of his followers?

7. How would you describe the manner in which the first two servants carried out their business while their master was gone?

How would you describe the manner in which the third servant managed his master's money?

Try to be specific, what has the Lord entrusted to you?

How are you managing what has been entrusted to you?

8. Verses 31-46 present a very clear picture that one day the truth about every heart will be revealed. This section of scripture reminded me of a beautiful poem I read many years ago by C.T. Studd; here is just one of the verses from that poem.

Only one life, yes only one, Now let me say, "Thy will be done";
And when at last I'll hear the call, I know I'll say "'twas worth it all";
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last. "

What is the central truth Jesus wanted all believers to know as he shared this parable of the sheep and the goats?

9. "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels are with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory." Who will then be standing before him? Who will make the division on that day? This insight is not given to us. We do not know who is truly a believer and who is not. What are we to do in the meantime?

10. We must never minimize the opportunity to meet a need in Jesus' name. Can you name some things you did this past week in Jesus' name? If you did them in Jesus' name, did he get the glory?

11. As you think back on the parables we have studied this week, what do you believe the Lord is whispering to you?

12. How will you tangibly express your love for Jesus by your words and deeds this week?

13. If you have studied this chapter and are not yet a believer, please contact us. We would love to speak to you about this and pray with you. Salvation is only a prayer away.