

(13) Parables: Ten Virgins, Talents, The Day of Judgment (Mt. 25:1-46)

1. The Parable of the Ten Virgins expands upon the imperative to be on the alert (Mt. 25:1-13 cf. 24:42).
 - a. Kingdom of Heaven comparisons are made 11 times in Matthew (Mt. 13:24,31,33,44,45,47,52; 18:23; 20:1; 22:2; 25:1).
 - b. Ten virgins take their lamps to meet the bridegroom (Mt. 25:1).
 - 1) παρθένος parthenos ^{#3933}_{15x}: *virgin* (Mt. 1:23; 25:1,7,11; Lk. 1:27_{x2}; Acts 21:9; 1st Cor. 7:25,28,34,36,37,38; 2nd Cor. 11:2; Rev. 14:4).
 - 2) λαμπάς lampas ^{#2985}_{9x}: *torch, lamp* (Mt. 25:1,3,4,7,8; Jn. 18:3; Acts 20:8; Rev. 4:5; 8:10).
 - 3) νυμφίος numphios ^{#3566}_{16x} (Mt. 9:15_{x2}; 25:1,5,6,10; Mk. 2:19_{x2},20; Lk. 5:34,35; Jn. 2:9; 3:29_{x3}; Rev. 18:23).
 - c. The contrast in this parable is foolish versus prudent.
 - 1) μωρός mōros ^{#3474}_{12x} (Mt. 5:22; 7:26; 23:17; 25:2,3,8; 1st Cor. 1:25,27; 3:18; 4:10; 2nd Tim. 2:23; Tit. 3:9).
 - 2) φρόνιμος phronimos ^{#5429}_{14x} (Mt. 7:24; 10:16; 24:45; 25:2,4,8,9; Lk. 12:42; 16:8; Rom. 11:25; 12:16; 1st Cor. 4:10; 10:15; 2nd Cor. 11:19).
 - d. Each virgin was expected to produce light, but only the wise virgins possessed the fuel needed to produce light.
 - e. The opportunity for entrance is narrow. Once shut, there are no second chances (Mt. 25:10-12 cf. Gen. 7:16; Lk. 13:25).
2. The Parable of the Talents (Mt. 25:14-30). Similar to the Parable of the Minas [LJ&PM 40] (Lk. 19:11-27).
 - a. This parable is closely linked to the previous passage, indicated by the abbreviated introduction (Mt. 25:14 cf. 25:1). This could then be thought of as the 12th Kingdom of Heaven comparison.
 - b. A man is going to “go on a journey.” ἀποδημέω apodēmeō ^{#589}_{6x} (Mt. 21:33^a; 25:14,15; Mk. 12:1^a; Lk. 15:13; 20:9^a).
 - c. In the Parable of the Minas, each slave was provided an equal amount to do business with. In this parable, the slaves are entrusted with varying amounts proportional to their ability (Mt. 25:15).
 - d. The standard in judgment divides “good and faithful” from “wicked and lazy” (Mt. 25:19-28).
3. The Day of Judgment (Mt. 25:31-46).
 - a. The setting for this judgment is the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ (Mt. 25:31; 2nd Thess. 1:7-10; Jude 14; Zech. 14:5).
 - b. This public judgment centers on the Gentiles (Mt. 25:32-33) in contrast to the private wilderness judgment of Israel (Ezek. 20:33-38(44)).
 - c. Sheep to the right, goats to the left (Mt. 25:33).
 - 1) The standard in judgment divides the blessed (Mt. 25:34) and righteous (Mt. 25:37) from the accursed (Mt. 25:41).
 - 2) Gentile behavior does not merit their righteous standing; Gentile behavior reflects their righteous standing as an expression of grace (Rom. 4:5; Eph. 2:8-9).