

10-17-21
THREE PARABLES CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

GETTING OIL IN YOUR LAMP

Intro:

More than ever we are seeing things that are leading up to the return of Christ to earth. If it was not for the fact that I believe the Bible it would be down right frightening what we are seeing taking place in our nation and the world today. There might have been a time in our lives when we read the book of Revelation that we would have found it hard to imagine a world to would be given to such craziness. I mean the plagues, the shortages, the cashless society, a government that demands obedience or you will be imprisoned or put to death. A time where people worship Satan himself. Plagues, and natural disasters like never before. Some of the things that our leaders believe is down right scary, but I have read the last pages of the Bible and I am sure that God is in control and is coming soon.

Now the Bible says,

I Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Certainly.. we are gathered together this morning.. because we believe there is more to life than just this world and the things that we are involved in..

If there is no judgment and there is no rewards in the after life, and if there is nothing for us after death.. than we are wasting our time.. why are we here?

The truth is the average person lives like their life will continue forever.. and if they do take thought about eternity they just give up and just make the most of the present. Eat, drink, be merry is the mentality of the day.. for tomorrow we die.

Why are we gathered together here this morning?

Paul gives the reason we should assemble together in Hebrews 10:25

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

We are gathered together to be provoked to love and good works and so much the more .. WHY? As you see the day approaching..

And just what day is that? That day in no other day than the day when Jesus Christ returns to earth to establish his kingdom.

Now some people ought to fear that day because they are totally unprepared for it... Others are looking forward to that day because it is the day of salvation and restoration and redemption..

The plain truth is that each of us are some day going to die.. and stand before God.. and the Bible does give us hope for a future life..

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Some day we will all have to give an account to God for our lives.. and it is possible to live a life that is pleasing to him and someday receive rewards from him..

Now the message I am going to share this morning was part of a sermon that the Lord shared with his disciples to answer their question when they asked him:

Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Now, in answer to this question that was asked of him our Lord shares something that will happen in Chapter 24 that proceed his return and then in Chapter 25 he gives some parables about how we can better prepare for his coming.

Now many of the things our Lord mentions in Chapter 24 we see happening even before our eyes. He predicts that as it were in the days of Noah and Lot so it will be before he comes.

Our Lord predicts famines and pestilence. We are seeing the birth pangs of these judgments even today.

In Sodom and Gomorrah, it says that everyone at every level was involved in this wickedness..

Genesis 19:4 But before they lay down, the men of the city, [even] the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

We are seeing transgenders and homosexuals in all levels of government today.

The volcanos, all around the world, Pestilence (Pandemics) rising power of China, terrorists, global instability..

All these things are referred to in Matt. Chapter 24

But what I want to deal with is Matthew chapter 25 because in this chapter Jesus teaches us how to prepare for the end times.

Matthew 25.. gives three parables.. to explain how we can order our lives to prepare for that day of judgment.. In each parable.. to not be prepared.. all we have to do nothing.. but Jesus in these parables warns his disciples about what they can do to prepare for his coming and eternity..

THE FIRST PARABLE IS THE PARABLE OF THE SLEEPY VIRGINS

I. PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN BY FILLING OUR LAMPS WITH OIL..

Matthew 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Matthew 25:2 And five of them were wise, and five [were] foolish.

Matthew 25:3 They that [were] foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

Matthew 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Matthew 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

Matthew 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Matthew 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, [Not so]; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

A parable is a story that is given to illustrate spiritual truth.. we cannot see spiritual things so the Lord compares them with physical stories and illustrations to help us get the point spiritually..

Tell Story..

1. Meaning of the ten virgins..

10 Virgins.. waiting for a King. to come and take them into the palace.. to live there.. a great place..

The virgins are symbolic of us his church.. we are suppose to be prepared for the return of Christ.. someday he will return to take his church to heaven with himself..

John 14.. he went to prepare a place for us..

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also.

John 14:4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

2. The Meaning of the lamps..

The lamps were apparently necessary items to meet the Lord..

Maybe he said.. I will come at midnight and when I come.. trim your lamps.. and come out to meet me.. When I see your lamps and lights.. I will take you to myself..

In the Old testament during wars and campaigns lamps, trumpets, were all used as a sign..

Gideon told his men when he breaks the pitcher that concealed his lamp.. that they were to do the same and blow a trumpet and this would be their attack strategy against the Midianites..

In this story... without the lit lamp.. these virgins could not go and meet the bride groom.. There was a neglect on their part.. that caused them to be unprepared and lack oil in their lamps.

Apparently they thought they had more time.. and were busy about other things that caused this neglect. The Lamps are symbolic of our spiritual condition. The oil cannot be seen until needed the proof there was no oil was that the lamp could not be lite.

3. Meaning of the oil in the lamps...

Note that sometimes being around Christians may make you think you are a Christian. A mother can't give her children this oil and a child can't give his parents the oil, nor can a brother give it to a sister or a friend to another friend. Everyone of us will stand before the Lord on his own merit. No one can give it to you, you have to get it for yourself. Now what is sad about this parable is that the oil is readily available to all. All they had to do is buy it for themselves.

Matthew 25:3 They that [were] foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

Matthew 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Matthew 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, [Not so]; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

This oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit of God that indwells every true Christian..

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

4. Christ Predicts The State Of The Church When He comes..

Matthew 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

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Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

They all slumbered and slept.

They all outwardly looked alike they all slept.. they were in a state of slumber...

For all intents and purposes you cannot tell who is saved and who is unsaved in the church today. There is no revival and everyone seems to be asleep spiritually.

Matthew 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

There is no revival..

Everyone is in a state of slumber and sleep.. spiritually... it is the midnight hour..

When a true Christian has to use his lamp... then it is known who has the oil and who does not.

You trim the wick so the oil can come to the top and the lamp can be lit...

To get the most light out of an oil based lantern it is best to trim your wick to a point. Without oil it doesn't matter how you trim the wick there will be no light.

5. THE LESSON OF THE PARABLE IS THAT IF YOU DO NOT PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME TO MEET THE LORD WHEN HE COMES TO YOU IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO PREPARE

Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, [Not so]; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Matthew 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

A. We will all meet the Lord at death.. and death comes too soon..

Death does not wait for anyone. I have known younger people that have died, and I know older people that die.

We all someday will stand before the Lord and have to give an account for the things we have done in this life. I am thinking of a colleague who was healthy, and in every way never would look like he was a candidate for death. He just dropped over of a massive heart aneurysm. He was only 40 years old.

Accidents come, you see these little memorials all along the highway in remembrance of loved ones who died. Most of them were young.

It will become evident when we face the Lord whether or not there was oil in your lamp..

Do you know that Judas Iscariot walked with the disciples for 3.5 years and no one ever suspected he was a traitor who was filled with the devil.

Now it is a sure thing that all of us will meet the Lord at death.. but there are some that will meet the Lord at his second coming.

We often say, HERE, THERE OR IN THE AIR.. We all will someday meet the Lord.

There are some people that it becomes evident that they do not really have it.

Paul named certain people that he said were not the Lord's sometimes it is obvious that some people are not his..

II Timothy 2:17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

II Timothy 2:18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

II Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

II Timothy 2:20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

II Timothy 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, [and] prepared unto every good work.

Paul as much as proclaims to the church that these two men were not true Christians. They were in the church but not really part of the church. They had no oil in their lamps.

I have seen in my many yeas of ministry people whose hearts are hardened, and who are not prepared to meet their God.

A visited a neighbor who was in the hospital, dying. When I went to pray with the man he just turned his back when I came into his room and would not even speak to me. It was obvious this man had no oil in his lamp.

I had Lady who threatened me if I would try to help her daughter and son-in-law get back together. When she died I did not see the grace of God or that Holy Spirit oil in her lamp.... She heard.. the gospel.. she was on the church rolls.. she knew the plan but there was no oil in her lamp.

Rude awakening for many.. when that day comes and they find the door to heaven shut up tight..

B. Some will meet the Lord in his return...

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

I Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

The Bible teaches that the generation that is alive in the end time when the end of world does come that only those who have oil in their lamps will go with him in that resurrection day. This will involve the living and the dead.

It will be too late to get saved then. There will be no more invitations the door will be shut and in that day if you are not saved and you did not open your heart to that blessed oil of the Holy Spirit then it will be too late.

THIS IS WHAT THE LORD WAS TALKING ABOUT..

Matthew 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Jesus wanted us to live in expectation of his return. We should live being prepared for our death. We should live in preparation for his return.

Mark 13:33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Mark 13:34 [For the Son of man is] as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

Mark 13:35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

Mark 13:36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

Mark 13:37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

The Lord told each of us .. to be ready...

We should be ready for the day he takes us in death..

We should be ready in case he takes us in life at his second coming.

Whether in death or in life.. we need to be longing for him to take us to himself.
WATCH ... WATCH...

C. How Do You Become A Christian With Oil In Your Lamp?

Matthew 25:9 But the wise answered, saying, [Not so]; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

The Truth must be purchased at a price..

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell [it] not; [also] wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

No, I am not talking about money.. this is a parable and the imagery is an illustration of a spiritual truth..

Just like a person would buy oil for their lamp.. so we can obtain the Holy Spirit of God.. through taking the time to repent of our sins.. and ask for this precious gift.

Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it]?

Luke 14:29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish [it], all that behold [it] begin to mock him,

Luke 14:30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

Luke 14:31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

Luke 14:32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

Luke 14:33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

There is going to be a cost for following the Lord.

I remember when I was 12-13 years old I took a piece of paper, and wrote my life's goals on that little piece of paper. I wanted to be a professional musician, I put down on that paper all that I wanted to accomplish. I put on that paper, the equipment I wanted to own, the accomplishments I wanted to accomplish. I was just a kid.. I wrote that I wanted to own a night club, I wanted to go to college for music.. I wanted to record a record by time I graduated high school. Little by little everything on that paper was coming to pass. Then one day I heard the gospel message. I heard this:

Matthew 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

There was nothing on that little piece of paper about God and in fact God was only someone I prayed to to fulfill all my dreams on Earth.

When I first heard the gospel I rejected it. I rejected it because I did not want to pay the price for that oil. If you asked me what religion I was, I would have said, "I am a Christian.." BUT I HAD NO OIL IN MY LAMP..

I was a good church going Christian. I went to church on Christmas and Easter and Weddings and Funerals. I was even on the church rolls. My mother used to put money in the offering plate in my name so if I died I could be buried in the church cemetery.

I had no oil in my lamp. Why? I did not want to count the cost.

No it is not the cost of money..

It is not the cost of earthy works or goods...

That cost is sacrificing your priorities and putting Christ on the throne of your heart!

I was afraid, that God may tell me I shouldn't be doing this or that and may require this or that of me.

You see no one can tell if you have oil in your lamp until you have to light it. That oil gives you peace and assurance that if Jesus comes back you are ready and living a life for him.

That oil no one can see but you know if it is there..
Christ knows if it is there!

So I went on my merry way looking to fulfill my agenda and filling my life with everything but God and his Holy Spirit.

If you would have asked me I would have said, Oh yes of course I am a Christian.

After all I am not a Jew, or a Muslim, or an Atheist.. So what else is there I am a Christian. BUT I WAS HIS BRIDE IN NAME ONLY!! INSIDE THERE WAS NO OIL!

Then a few other people challenged me to buy that oil. I was walking through the hallways of my college and a man handed me a bible out of the clear blue. It spooked me. So I took that Bible .. I hid it in my sock drawer I even read a little bit of it.. But still I did not want to be spent for that oil. The price for that oil was my little list of things I wanted to do and live for.

I started thinking about my little list of things I wanted to accomplish. A lot of things on that list I knew I could accomplish but suddenly I started thinking what will happen after I accomplish everything on that little piece of paper. Then I realized, there are two possibilities..

a. I COULD GET SICK AND LOSE EVERYTHING I WORKED FOR IN THIS LIFE..

b. I COULD DIE AND LOSE EVERYTHING ON MY LITTLE LIST..

I was sure I was going to accomplish everything on my little list.. but now I was in turmoil because I realized I was not in control of my life like I thought I was. I could not control these variables. I started getting convicted and was miserable..

Then I meet another person that had that oil and I did not have it.. They invited me to a church where I met a lot of other people that had the oil in their lamps. At that church I started thinking, Why am I holding on to my little list that someday I will lose anyway?

I realized it was inevitable, there were things outside my control. Someday I was going to lose everything on my list either at death, or worse maybe through sickness, or something else out of my control.

Then I looked at what Christ did for so many people, it was good, it was holy .. it was right, it was pure. None of his servants were unhappy, dissolute, they had enough and were content. Yeah, people in the world made fun of them, but they made fun of each other too.

So that Sunday Morning I prayed to Jesus in heaven and said, Lord I have been fighting this all because I did not want to trade in my little list that I held dear to my heart that I thought was my life. I said in my heart.. Lord here is my life.. I will take you if you will take me..

AND THAT WAS THE DAY THAT I BOUGHT OIL AND HID IT IN THE LAMP OF MY HEART..

TODAY I AM WAITING FOR THE UPPER TAKER OR I AM PREPARED FOR THE UNDERTAKER,,, EITHER WAY I'M READY ...

Now that is how you buy the oil.

I am going to ask you, do you have oil in your lamp?

The only way you can purchase it is to pay for it with your heart and life..

Does he own that?

Now is the time to receive him.. before death knocks at your door..
Or before the trumpet of God sounds.. and Christ returns..

6. What is the cost of this oil ???

II Corinthians 5:15 And [that] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

I Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.

There is an endless supply of oil that is available to everyone who comes to Christ.. and gives their lives to him..

A. You sell yourself to him as his servant..

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Some people.. want to be a Christian.. but they want to be free to sin.. and serve sin.. can't be married to sin.. and married to Christ..

When you die to sin and the self life.. you then receive oil in your lamp.. As long as you him-haw.. and are straddling both sides of the fence..

YOU MAY HAVE A LAMP...
YOU MAY LOOK LIKE A CHRISTIAN..
YOU MAY BE A CHURCH MEMBER..
YOU MAY EVEN BE BAPTIZED ..
YOU MAY EVEN BE DO SOME RELIGIOUS SERVICE...

BUT YOU ARE VOID OF OIL IN YOUR LAMP..

When death comes.. and it is time to light your lamp.. your light will go out..

If the the trumpet sounds.... you will not have any oil in your lamp.. to meet him

Now is the time to repent.. and trade your little life ambitions for that oil..

PART II
PREPARING FOR THE KINGDOM BY INVESTING OUR TALENTS

Matthew 25:14 For [the kingdom of heaven is] as a man travelling into a far country, [who] called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

Matthew 25:15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Matthew 25:16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made [them] other five talents.

Matthew 25:17 And likewise he that [had received] two, he also gained other two.

Matthew 25:18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

Matthew 25:19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

Matthew 25:20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

Matthew 25:21 His lord said unto him, Well done, [thou] good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

Matthew 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, [there] thou hast [that is] thine.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, [Thou] wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and [then] at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give [it] unto him which hath ten talents.

Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Intro: Here we have a parable a story that likens the Lord to a man who was going to travel into a far country.. something that would often take place in our lord's day... In this story this wealthy landowner.. divides the responsibility of his property and goods to

his servants.. He likens his goods to talents or a sum of money. He entrusted these to his servants..

NOTE: This parable is addressed to those who profess to know Christ.. we who know him are called his servants...

Either you serve Christ.. or you are a servant of sin.. can't serve two masters..

Each servant is given responsibility and talents in proportion to his ability.. To some more and to others.. less.. It is our responsibility to use these talents and abilities.. and gifts.. wisely and invest them as we would expect our Lord to have us.. They are not ours but his..

ALL THAT WE HAVE WE HAVE BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THESE ARE ENTRUSTED TO US BY HIM...

Note our Lord uses an example of three servants to represent all of his servants.. the point being some are given more.. and some less.. but he expects all the same effort from each of us.. that is we are to invest all for him and see a return.. according to our several ability..

God holds each of us responsible for what he has given to us..

Note: the Lord does not rebuke the fellow who brings an increase of only two while the other brings an increase of five, some have more ability than others.. and therefore are able to bring greater increase..

WHAT DOES OUR LORD EXPECT?

He expects us to give him our best..

Then there is the slothful servant.. who does not produce any increase.. WHY.. he blames the Lord.. he said he was afraid .. and hid his talent in the dirt..

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, [there] thou hast [that is] thine.

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He accused the Lord of being a hard man..

He used the excuse that he was afraid of the Lord..

The Lord.. gives the real reason he doesn't bring gain.. and that is because he is wicked and slothful...

Lessons to learn from this parable..

I. ALL THAT WE ARE AND HAVE HAS BEEN GIVEN TO US FROM THE LORD AND WE WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR HOW WE USED THESE TALENTS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF HIS KINGDOM

A. We do not own anything...

PROOF.. when we die do we take anything with us.. If we own it.. why is it that we loose control of it..

When the Lord needed a colt to ride into Jerusalem.. he just told his disciples to go unloose it .. and say the Lord hath need of it..

I wonder.. how we would react if someone just said.. to you the Lord has need of your car.. your home.. your bank account..

B. God only entrusts us with that which he knows we can use for his glory!

If we have been entrusted with it.. it is because God knows we can handle. it..

I Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

II. The Only Servant That Received Condemnation Is The One Who Did not try..

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, [there] thou hast [that is] thine.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, [Thou] wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and [then] at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give [it] unto him which hath ten talents.

Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

People think that they will be excused in that day when they stand before God..

Note His Excuses:

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, [there] thou hast [that is] thine.

1. I Knew that you were a hard man. reaping where you do not sow.. and gathering where you did no straw..

This was a marvelous observation.. this person was a person who at one time was churchd.. He saw how others were busy about the work of God and heard testimonies.. about how great God is .. and his workings..

He heard about others.. who were doing the work.. testimonials.. etc..

No doubt.. this fellow got offended about something... and felt like he was justified.. in what he was doing..

Through the years I have heard many excuses for why people drop out of serving God..

I am thinking of a man who got bitter because he couldn't be a deacon.. that was his excuse..

I am thinking about a woman who got upset about so many petty things in the church..

Another fellow left because he was offended I didn't recognize his sacrifices..

2. He Hid his Talent Because he Said he feared the Lord

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, [there] thou hast [that is] thine.

He blamed God for this.. making it sound like it was his fault..

III. SUCH EXCUSES WILL NOT HOLD WATER WITH THE LORD..

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, [Thou] wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and [then] at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give [it] unto him which hath ten talents.

Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

The least he could have done is supported others who were investing their talents for God..

This is a great picture of missions giving..

PARABLE III

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Matthew 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats:

Matthew 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Matthew 25:35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Matthew 25:36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Matthew 25:37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed [thee]? or thirsty, and gave [thee] drink?

Matthew 25:38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took [thee] in? or naked, and clothed [thee]?

Matthew 25:39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matthew 25:42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

Matthew 25:43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Matthew 25:44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

Matthew 25:45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did [it] not to one of the least of these, ye did [it] not to me.

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Here we have a parable.. of how that even the least support for God's work will not unnoticed..

NOTE: The Lord is looking for some fruit..

No one will be in heaven unless they have some fruit.. And no one will be in hell who produced any good fruit..

Again a perfect picture of missions giving. If we support God's servants.. even by giving them a refreshing cup of cold water it will not go un-noticed by our Lord.

How much more when you support God's missionaries and ministers and preachers..