

# THE LAST PARABLES: HOW TO BE WISE AND FAITHFUL

## Quote:

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 25:40

## Bible Marking

**Matthew 25:1** - **“lamps”** - Shine and show us the way we should walk when the oil is burnt in the lamp - **Psa 119:105,130; 2 Cor 4:6; Jn 8:12; 12:46.**

**“Virgins”** - ie those undefiled by the world or false religion. They are all in the truth.

**Matthew 25:2** - **“wise”** - means prudent, sensible or practically wise (WE Vine).

**“Foolish”** - Gk ‘moros’ - means imprudent, without forethought or wisdom. ie cannot see what the consequences of their action is. Demonstrated in v3.

**Matthew 25:3** - **“took no oil”** - thus they would need to walk in the darkness (**1 Jn 1:5-6; Rom 13:12**).

**Matthew 25:14** - **“man”** - called “lord” (**v18**) Gk ‘kurios’ - means master or lord.

**Matthew 25:15** - **“several ability”** - means - ‘peculiar power strength or capability’. It is our responsibility to use what we have been given.

**Matthew 25:16** - **“traded”** - to work, labor, do work: it is opposite to inactivity or idleness.

**Matthew 25:19** - **“reckoneth”** - lit - to settle accounts.

**Matthew 25:23** - **“good”** - means to think highly off. This is the divine estimation of the faithful.

## Matthew 25

**Vv1-13** - Parable of the Ten Virgins

**Vv14-30** - Parable of the Talents

**Vv 31-46** - Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

## Five Wise Virgins

Foreshadowed by the 5 daughters of Zelophehad (**Num 27:1-4**):

- Their names occur 4 times in scripture paralleling the 4 times the word wise occurs in Matthew 25.
- They, like us had never seen the land.
- They, like us had no legal title to the land (their father being dead).
- But they believed in the promises. That one day Israel would possess the land.
- They were future focussed like the wise virgins who had the forethought to provide enough oil.
- They were not prepared to do anything that might jeopardise their right to take their inheritance.
- They were willing and ready to marry one who would secure their inheritance (see Acts 20:32)

**“Faithful”** - means ‘reliable/ trustworthy’.

**Matthew 25:26** - **“wicked and slothful servant”** - ie Wicked in the way he had viewed his lord; he was slothful in his application to the duties committed to his charge.

### Key Words to Colour:

- Gk ‘erchomai’ - translated **came/come** or similar - used 9x - v6, 10, 11, 13, 19, 27, 31, 36, 39. - Colour Yellow
- Highlight By circling Yellow the 6 key uses of the Lord coming:  
v6 **“Bridegroom cometh”**; v10 - **“Bridegroom came”**; v13 - **“Son of man cometh”**; v19 - **“the lord of those servants cometh”**; v27 - **“at my coming”**; v31 - **“Son of man shall come”**
- **“Wise”** (Gk ‘phronimos’) - v2,4,8,9. - Colour Blue
- **“Foolish”** (Gk ‘moros’) - v2,3,8. - Colour Red
- **“Faithful”** - v21 (2x), 23 (2x). - Colour Green
- **“Servant”** (Gk ‘doulos’) - v14, 19, 21, 23, 26, 30. - Colour Purple

### According to His Several Ability (Matt 25:15)

We must learn to use our natural gifts, whether mental, physical or material, in Christ's service; recognising them as talents entrusted to us to use to the glory of Yahweh (see **1 Pet. 4:10-11**). A person of lesser ability will not be penalised if he uses his limited gifts to the best advantage (see **Jas 1:17; 1 Tim. 6:17**). It is the “willing mind” that counts, and not what a person has (see **2 Cor. 8:12**).

Adapted from Story of the Bible Vol 7 p208-9

### Sheep and Goats - The Contrast

Sheep are inoffensive and easily led; they are noted for mildness, simplicity, innocence, patience and usefulness. They work exclusively for their master, producing wool, milk and meat, having almost no ability to do anything else.

Sheep are usually white - speaking or righteousness. They represent those absorbed with the things of Yahweh and motivated by a desire to render service to their shepherd.

Goats are naturally mischievous, destructive, wayward, quarrelsome, lascivious, and ill-tempered, and as such are a symbol of riotous, profane and impure men.

Innately selfish, they represent those nations and individuals given up to their own passions and lusts, totally absorbed with their own interests and therefore fail to see the needs of others. They are found quarreling with or opposing God's people, whether it be Israel as a nation, or His true sons and daughters.

In colour they are usually brown or black as they blend into the darkness they love (**Jn 3:19**).