

Parable of the Ten Virgins and Parable of the Money (Matt. 25:1-30)

Both parables picture judgment at Christ's coming upon believers based upon the individual believer's preparation.

The 10 Virgins:

- Virgins are believers (2 Cor. 11:2). All have their lamps lit, meaning their spirits are reborn (Prov. 20:27; Jn. 3:6-7; 1 Cor. 6:19).
- Wise believers pay a price to gain extra oil (the Holy Spirit). This is sanctification of the believer by the Holy Spirit in his living. For this, the believer pays a price, such as seeking after God and living by faith (Heb. 11:6), spending time in His word (Jn. 17:17); cleansing ourselves from defilement (2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Jn. 1:9), putting to death the deeds of the body (Rom. 8:13); denying ourselves, taking up our cross and following Jesus in obedience (Lk. 9:23), and being filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). Foolish believers pay no price for sanctification in their lives.
- The judgment concerns which believers are qualified to be in the overcomer bride for the wedding feast when Christ suddenly comes for the overcomers. This applies to all believers over the centuries. The overcomer bride makes herself ready (Rev. 19:7-10). The wedding signifies fullness of union between the bride and groom. These overcomers come back with Christ at the end of the age to put down a final rebellion of men (Rev. 19:11-15; 17:14). The wise are ready to participate in the wedding feast, but the foolish are not. After the 1,000 year Kingdom, we see the final bride, the wife of the Lamb made ready by God (Rev. 21:2, 9). This final bride includes all believers.

The Parable of the Money

- This parable pictures a judgment upon believers based upon their faithfulness in stewardship for service (see also Lk. 19:11-27).
- While Christ is away, He gives his believers possessions to use for His profit (25:14). When He returns, He calls them to account for their stewardship at His Judgment Seat (v. 19). All three slaves are believers as the New Testament does not show Christ giving spiritual gifts to unbelievers, expecting them to produce a spiritual profit.
- Christ entrusts us with many things, which at least include spiritual gifts (Rom. 12, 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4), special opportunities arranged by God's sovereignty (Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:10), and material possessions also arranged by God's sovereignty (Lk. 16:9, 10; 1 Tim. 6:17-19).
- The first two slaves are faithful and are rewarded with participation and increased responsibilities in His 1,000 year Kingdom (verses 20-23; also Lk. 19:16-19).
- The third slave was not faithful. He is penalized with loss of stewardship (v. 28) and being thrown into "outer darkness." This means he is excluded from the bright glory of Christ's 1,000 year Kingdom and loses his opportunity to reign with Christ there.

Verse 13 connects the two parables and warns us to be always watchful according to these principles of preparation because Jesus is coming at an unknown hour.