

# **The Moral of the Story: Three Parables from Matthew 25**

## **April 27-28, 2019**

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **The Moral of the Story**
- What is a parable? Why did Jesus talk in parables?
  - o Explain spiritual things by using common experiences.
  - o Seekers vs Stiff Necked. Be a seeker! God wants you to find Him!!
- **This Week: Matthew Chapter 25 – 3 Parables**
- Jesus is discussing end times events with his disciples. **Matthew 24:36-44**
  - o How do we stay ready for Jesus' return? Three things from three parables.
- 1) The Ten Virgins: prepare for the long haul. **Matthew 25:1-13**
  - o What was the difference between the wise and the foolish?
    - All 10 knew the bridegroom was coming.
    - All 10 prepared by bringing lamps and oil.
    - All 10 even fell asleep!
  - o The wise prepared for the long haul and were able to finish.
    - Foolish couldn't borrow oil. No one can do this for you. You must last.
    - Even if you are prepared for the long haul, it can seem really long!!
- 2) The Parable of the Talents: try to be productive for the Kingdom of God now!
  - o We covered this one before, but it is important in the context.
- 3) The Sheep and the Goats: love people with your actions. **Matthew 25:31-46**
  - o What was the difference between the sheep and the goats?
    - How much theology did you see in this parable?
    - Did their beliefs happen to come up?
    - Both seemed to be oblivious to their behavior. (overflow of the heart)
  - o The difference was that the sheep helped others. Their love for others produced action.
    - Do your deeds matter? Yes! (Now, read the whole Bible, but read the whole Bible!)
    - They were not justified by their works, but their hearts spilled over. **1 John 4:19-21**
    - Jesus takes personally how we treat others. Make room. Take the time.
- The three things from Matt 25 that we need in order to be ready to meet Jesus:
  - o Last. Run the race to the end.
  - o Get the job done. (Product decision making.) Run in such a way as to get the prize.
  - o Love others. (Process decision making.) Part of it is stopping to help others along the way!
- This is an overflow of the heart thing, not a list of rules to comply with kind of thing.
- How do you get the overflow in your heart in the first place?
- **1 John 4:19.** What does "He first loved us" mean to you?
  - o You are loved now. Forgiveness is complete. You matter. A better life is part of God's plan for you. You belong. Freedom and healing is waiting for you! A new Spirit is coming in!
- When you let yourself be loved first, then loving God and loving your neighbor starts to make sense!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!