

# Matthew 25

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## Matthew 25

Question: What does the parable of the sheep and the goats mean?

The parable of the goat and the sheep appears in Matthew 25 as part of Jesus' description of the Last Judgment, especially in the parable of "separating the goats and the sheep."

Jesus said that when He returns, He will divide humanity into two groups just as a shepherd separates goats from sheep. The sheep represent those believers and those who do good deeds who will receive eternal life, while the goats represent those who refuse to help the poor, the sick, prisoners, and strangers who will be denied eternal life and face eternal punishment.

The parable focuses on the combination of behavior and faith, rather than referring to the "saved" population alone. Jesus pointed out that those who practice love and mercy are those who truly trust Him, and this goes hand in hand with the practice of faith and behavior.

So, this is not a reference to the saved population, but rather a distinction between those who are saved and those who are not saved. The saved are likened to sheep, and the unsaved are goats.

The parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25:31-46 is a vivid picture of Jesus Christ's eschatological judgment, revealing God's standard of judgment for human behavior and the importance of love and mercy in God's eyes. Here's a detailed elaboration of this parable:

1. Scenes of judgment (vv.31-33).

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all the angels, he will sit on his glorious throne." : This

describes the glorious coming of Jesus Christ in the last days as King and Judge.

"And all the nations shall be gathered together before him. He will separate them as shepherds distinguish sheep from goats; Set the sheep on the right and the goats on the left." : This indicates that all men will be judged before Christ, who will divide the people into two categories as a shepherd distinguishes between sheep and goats.

## 2. The standard of judgment (vv. 34-40).

"Then the king will say to him on his right hand, Come and inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you from the foundation of the world; For I am hungry, and you give me food, and when I am thirsty, you give me drink; I am a stranger, and you keep me to stay; I am naked, and you clothe me; I am sick, and you take care of me; I am in prison, and you have come to see me." This reveals that the standard of judgment is based on people's behavior towards those in need.

"And the righteous answered and said, Lord, when did we see thee hungry, and give thee food, and thirst, and give thee drink? When will I see you as a stranger, and keep you in lodging, or naked, and clothe you? When did you see you sick, or in prison, and came to see you?' The righteous are amazed at their good deeds because they do not realize that they are serving Christ Himself.

"And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done unto me. This shows that Christ identified himself with those in need, and that service to them was service to Christ.

## 3. The outcome of the trial (vv.41–46).

"Then the king will say to him on his left, Depart from me, you cursed! Enter the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels! For I am hungry, and you do not give me food, and when I am thirsty, you do not give me a drink; I am a stranger, and you will not keep me to stay; I am naked, and you will not clothe me; When I am sick or in prison, you do not come to me." This describes the judgment of those who have no mercy and love.

"And they shall answer, saying, Lord, when did we see thee hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and not serving thee? They are equally confused by their behavior.

"And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye do not unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye shall not do unto me. Again, this emphasizes that neglect of those in need is neglect of Christ.

"These shall go away into eternal punishment; and the righteous shall go into eternal life." This proclaims

the final result of the judgment, eternal life for those who do good and eternal punishment for those who do evil.

The meaning of the parable:

The Importance of Love and Mercy: This parable emphasizes the importance of love and mercy in God's eyes. True faith is not just in words, but in deeds.

Responsibility to those in need: Christians have a responsibility to care for and help those in need, regardless of their status and status.

Christ's Identification: Christ identified Himself with those in need, and his service to them was his service to Christ.

Judgment in the Last Days: This parable reminds us that one day we will all stand before Christ for judgment, and our actions will be the basis for judgment.

In summary, the parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25 is what Jesus Christ taught Christians.

Remind us to treat those around us with love and compassion.

The parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25 is an important reminder and vigilance for saved Christians, and it has the following aspects to the salvation of Christians:

#### 1. Testimony of deeds after salvation:

Although Christians are saved through faith in Jesus Christ, the saved life produces the fruit of works.

The parable of the sheep and the goat emphasizes that Christians' love and concern for those in need is an outward testimony to the truth of their faith.

This is not to say that good deeds lead to salvation, but that true faith naturally flows into acts of love and mercy.

#### 2. The Practice of Love:

This parable reminds Christians that love is not just an emotion, but a practical action.

Jesus identified Himself with those in need, and as such, our service to them is our service to Christ.

This motivates Christians to actively care for the disadvantaged in their daily lives and put their faith into action.

#### 3. Reminder of Trial:

Although eternal life as a Christian is certain, we still face Christ's judgment on how we respond to God's love and how we treat others.

This parable reminds Christians to always be vigilant and live a life worthy of the grace to which they are

called.

Though salvation is by grace, it is by faith. But our deeds after salvation are also part of our account before the Lord.

#### 4. Examination of the Spiritual Life:

This parable is a mirror through which Christians examine their own spiritual life.

Do we really care about those in need? Are we willing to give our time and energy to help them?

By reflecting on these questions, Christians can gain a deeper understanding of their faith and grow in love.

#### Summary:

The parable of the sheep and the goats is not for Christians to be saved by works, but to remind them that true faith produces acts of love.

This parable motivates Christians to practice love and mercy in their lives and to live a life that is consistent with the likeness of Christ.

At the same time, it also reminds all Christians to constantly examine whether they continue to follow in the footsteps of the Lord after being saved, and whether they live out the love and mercy of the Lord in their lives.

Question: Why did the servant who received a thousand bury the silver in the ground, and use it for nothing? He was rebuked by his master

One of Jesus' "parables of talent." In this parable, a master allocates a certain amount of silver (or talents) to his servants to use. The two servants each earned more with their share of the silver, while the third servant buried the money in the ground and left it unused, and the master was dissatisfied with him.

In this parable, the silver represents the gifts and opportunities that God has given that every believer should use to work and serve the kingdom of God. The third servant buries the silver, symbolizing the failure to take advantage of God-given gifts and opportunities, which is often interpreted as those who do not live out their faith and do not take God's will as their own responsibility.

Some interpretations hold that the servant represents those who have no true faith or who refuse to accept Jesus' salvation. They may have God's gifts (e.g., life, time, etc.) on the surface, but they don't actually use them to glorify God. Thus, some theological interpretations suggest that this passage may indirectly point to those who are unsaved or unwilling to repent.

Overall, the main purpose of this passage is to emphasize that believers should faithfully use God's gifts

and not let them go to waste. Whether or not to point to the unsaved depends on different theological perspectives, but it is not difficult to understand that those who reject or do not use God's gifts may be in a state of failure or regret.

In Matthew 25, the servant who received a thousand pieces of silver buried his silver in the ground and was rebuked by his master for the following reasons:

1. Unfaithfulness and laziness:

The master gave the money to the servants in the hope that they would make good use of these resources and earn more profit for the master.

The fact that the servant who received the 1,000 silver chose to bury it shows that he has not done his duty and has not made any effort for his master.

His actions reflect his laziness and disloyalty, and he does not take the trust of his master seriously.

2. Fear and timidity:

And the servant said unto his master, Lord, I know that thou art a man of patience, reaping where there is no sowing, and gathering where there is no scattering; And I was afraid, and went and buried thy thousand talents in the ground. Behold, here is thy original silver." —Matthew 25:24-25.

This shows that the servant has a false perception of the master, who he believes to be a stern, demanding person and therefore afraid to take risks and afraid of failure.

His fear kept him from trying, from using his master's money, and eventually led him to nothing.

3. Failure to make good use of gifts:

This parable also reminds us that God gives each person different gifts and talents.

The servant who received a thousand pieces of silver did not make good use of what he had, he did not realize his potential, and he did not contribute to the expansion of the kingdom of God.

It also represents whether we are making good use of the gifts God has given us to work for Him.

4. Spiritual Meaning:

On a spiritual level, this parable also reminds us that Christians should actively participate in the kingdom of God rather than passively waiting.

We should make good use of God's gifts and opportunities to work for God's glory.

Those who are unfaithful, lazy, and cowardly will be judged by God.

At the same time, the parable warns us not to bury the gifts God has given us.

In this parable, the difference in the amount of silver was not random, but was distributed by the master

"according to each man's ability" (Kata tēn idian dynamin, meaning "according to the ability of the individual"). This shows that the master has some understanding of the potential and abilities of each servant and gives resources accordingly according to the responsibilities they can assume.

Matthew 25

Amplified Bible

Parable of Ten Virgins

25 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went to [a]meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish [thoughtless, silly, and careless], and five were wise [far-sighted, practical, and sensible]. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any [extra] oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil along with their lamps. 5 Now while the bridegroom was delayed, they all began to nod off, and they fell asleep. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! The bridegroom [is coming]! Go out to meet him.' 7 Then all those virgins got up and put their own lamps in order [trimmed the wicks and added oil and lit them]. 8 But the foolish virgins said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'No, otherwise there will not be enough for us and for you, too; go instead to the dealers and buy oil for yourselves.' 10 But while they were going away to buy oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut and locked. 11 Later the others also came, and said, 'Lord, Lord, open [the door] for us.' 12 But He replied, 'I assure you and most solemnly say to you, I do not know you [we have no relationship].' 13 Therefore, be on the alert [be prepared and ready], for you do not know the day nor the hour [when the Son of Man will come].

Parable of the Talents

14 "For it is just like a man who was about to take a journey, and he called his servants together and entrusted them with his possessions. 15 To one he gave five [b]talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and then he went on his journey. 16 The one who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he [made a profit and] gained five more. 17 Likewise the one who had two [made a profit and] gained two more. 18 But the one who had received the one went and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "Now after a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 And the one who had received the five talents came and brought him five more, saying, 'Master, you entrusted to me five talents. See, I have [made a profit and] gained five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little, I will put you in charge of many things; share in the joy of your master.'

22 "Also the one who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have [made a profit and] gained two more talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and

faithful servant. You have been faithful and trustworthy over a little, I will put you in charge of many things; share in the joy of your master.’

24 “The one who had received one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a harsh and demanding man, reaping [the harvest] where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter seed. 25 So I was afraid [to lose the talent], and I went and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is your own.’

26 “But his master answered him, ‘You wicked, lazy servant, you knew that I reap [the harvest] where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter seed. 27 Then you ought to have put my money with the bankers, and at my return I would have received my money back with interest. 28 So take the talent away from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’

29 “For to everyone who has [and values his blessings and gifts from God, and has used them wisely], more will be given, and [he will be richly supplied so that] he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have [because he has ignored or disregarded his blessings and gifts from God], even what he does have will be taken away. 30 And throw out the worthless servant into the outer darkness; in that place [of grief and torment] there will be weeping [over sorrow and pain] and grinding of teeth [over distress and anger].

#### The Judgment

31 “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory and majesty and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him [for judgment]; and He will separate them from one another, as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats; 33 and He will put the sheep on His right [the place of honor], and the goats on His left [the place of rejection].

34 “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father [you favored of God, appointed to eternal salvation], inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; 36 I was naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me [with help and ministering care]; I was in prison, and you came to Me [ignoring personal danger].’ 37 Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? 38 And when did we see You as a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 39 And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 The King will answer and say to them, ‘I assure you and most solemnly say to you, to the extent that you did it for one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it for Me.’

41 “Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Leave Me, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels (demons); 42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat;

I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; 43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me [with help and ministering care].’ 44 Then they also [in their turn] will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or as a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ 45 Then He will reply to them, ‘I assure you and most solemnly say to you, to the extent that you did not do it for one of the least of these [my followers], you did not do it for Me.’ 46 Then these [unbelieving people] will go away into eternal (unending) punishment, but those who are righteous and in right standing with God [will go, by His remarkable grace] into eternal (unending) life.”

Matthew 25 is a chapter in the New Testament of the Bible, often regarded for its teachings about the Kingdom of God, preparedness for the return of Jesus Christ, and the final judgment. It contains three significant parables and a discourse about the separation of the righteous and the unrighteous at the end of time.

#### Full Description:

The Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13): This parable speaks about ten virgins (bridesmaids) who are waiting for the bridegroom to arrive. Five of them were wise and brought extra oil for their lamps, while the other five were foolish and did not. When the bridegroom was delayed, the foolish virgins ran out of oil and were not allowed into the wedding feast when the bridegroom arrived. The central lesson here is the importance of being prepared and vigilant, for no one knows when the return of Christ will happen.

#### Key Verse:

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.” (Matthew 25:13)

The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30): In this parable, a man goes on a journey and entrusts three of his servants with different amounts of money (talents) to manage. Two of the servants wisely invest and double their talents, while the third buries his talent out of fear. When the master returns, he praises the two servants who invested wisely but condemns the one who did nothing, calling him wicked and lazy. The master takes away his talent and gives it to the one with the most. This story teaches about using the gifts and resources entrusted to us by God to serve His purposes.

#### Key Verse:

“Well done, good and faithful servant... You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:21)

The Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46): This is a description of the final judgment. Jesus, as the King, will separate people as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The "sheep" represent the righteous who have served others with love, and the "goats" represent the unrighteous who neglected to do so. The righteous will inherit the Kingdom prepared for them, while the unrighteous will depart into eternal



punishment. This parable emphasizes the importance of caring for the needy—those who are hungry, thirsty, sick, or in prison—and the spiritual significance of serving others in the name of Christ.

Key Verse:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” (Matthew 25:35)

Important Verses:

Matthew 25:1-13 (The Parable of the Ten Virgins):

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

This verse is a call for Christians to be vigilant and prepared for the return of Christ, reminding them that His coming could be at any time.

Matthew 25:21 (The Parable of the Talents):

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

This verse highlights the reward for those who are faithful with the gifts and responsibilities given to them, emphasizing that faithfulness is valued in God's eyes.

Matthew 25:40 (The Sheep and the Goats):

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

This verse underlines the importance of serving others, particularly the marginalized and needy, and that such service is as if it were being done for Jesus Himself.

Matthew 25:46 (The Sheep and the Goats):

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

This verse is a solemn reminder of the final judgment and the eternal consequences of how we live our lives, serving others and living according to God's will.

Spiritual Influence and Application:

Vigilance and Preparation:

The Parable of the Ten Virgins teaches Christians to remain prepared for Christ's return. Spiritual vigilance is vital, and we are urged to keep our hearts and lives aligned with God's will so that we are ready when He comes again.

#### Faithfulness in Service:

The Parable of the Talents emphasizes using our resources, gifts, and time for God's glory. Christians are called to faithfully serve, recognizing that all they have is a gift from God. The good stewardship of these gifts is not just for personal gain but to serve God's Kingdom.

#### Compassion and Service to Others:

The Sheep and the Goats parable reinforces the importance of loving and caring for others, especially those in need. The spiritual message here is that acts of compassion and service to others are not just acts of kindness but are ways of serving Christ Himself.

#### Eternal Perspective:

The final judgment is a theme in Matthew 25, which teaches Christians to live with an eternal perspective, where our actions and choices have everlasting consequences. It encourages believers to live in a way that reflects God's love and justice, aiming to inherit eternal life.

#### Conclusion:

Matthew 25 challenges believers to be prepared, faithful, and compassionate, with a focus on loving and serving others as an expression of their devotion to Christ. The chapter teaches that how we treat the least among us is a reflection of our relationship with Christ and has eternal significance. Through these parables, Jesus calls His followers to live with purpose, generosity, and love, always mindful of the final judgment and the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven.