

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

Good and Faithful Servant (The Joy of Your Lord)

Matthew 25:14-30

We don't have to be scared of knowing about the End

- Head in the sand or Sky is falling
- **Balanced belief**

Deception is the largest sign of the end - it permeates all!

Jesus wants us prepared - He tells us beforehand

Today & Next Time:

- **Parable of Talents** (parable: earthly story, heavenly meaning)
- **Jesus is the Judge** - rewards for righteous, punishment for wicked

Think of this parable in light of the coming Judgment

"This parable takes up the question which that of the bridesmaids left unanswered: what is 'readiness'?" (France)

Maranatha *"The Lord is Coming" "Come, O Lord!"*

[Pray]

:14-15

Kingdom of Heaven is like...

Jesus uses many parables for us to understand things from His perspective

Our ideas of heaven and hell are not the same as God's.

- Heaven - harps, clouds, angel wings
- Hell - devils, red, fire, "party"

It's not two kingdoms at war

- Victory was declared from the beginning - Jesus
- Death has lost its sting. There's resurrection.
- There's only one eternal kingdom - God's
- Satan's kingdom is in this world - and it's temporary, and lost, will be destroyed
- God's kingdom is being built for eternity

Rich man, travelling - entrusts his things to the servants in his absence

Stewardship - caring for things not your own

“The best thing he could do with his money in his absence, dividing it among carefully selected slaves, and leaving them to do their best with it.” (Bruce)

Given Each one according to his own ability

Individual ability - individual talent you alone responsible for what God has given you

Spider-Man “With great power comes great responsibility”

Everyone of us is made unique

DNA, fingerprints, family upbringing, time and place in history, interests

Twins not alike

“Response - abilities”

OT - God commanded different artisans to do different things

Trouble arises when we want to do something God has not designed us for

No, you can't be whatever you want. You can play basketball of course, but unless you're 7' tall you probably won't make the NBA.

Realistic expectations on us and for us

Disappointment comes when our expectations aren't met

Expectations flow from our desires

Our desires may be God-given, but our expectations of their fulfillment may not be.

Our emotions can run amok when they're tied to circumstances and expectations

The life you dreamed vs the life you have

The outcome you expected vs. the outcome you received

:16-19

Received talent

- Thing weighed, scale of balance, sum of money
- Talent = 100# of silver, 200# of gold
- Things of great value. Things measured. Worth. Standard.

DGC as life resources — such as time, money, abilities, and **authority**.

We must remember the things in our life were given to us

Our very lives itself.

Influencers - get paid because they influence our desires, dreams, actions, expectations

Who is influencing ours?

Are we not satisfied with what we've been given because someone else has something else? Because someone says we shouldn't be satisfied with it?

Is that not the same lie in the garden?

Do we think our one thing is less?

Are we jealous of those with more?

Girl in youth group years ago - thinking she had nothing, feeling like she was nothing

Maybe never told, never encouraged, looking at her own appearance vs other's

This can be resolved in knowing the key answers in life (PS & Evo destroyed society):

- Who made you? God.
- Who loves you? God.
- Who has a plan and purpose for your life? God

Zechariah 4:10a - For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice...

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Hid his lord's money

- Who's was it? Not his own.
- His own desire for what was given to him didn't matter.
- What happens to the Lord's money is the Lord's decision
- Two roles: lord, servant

People will say "I have a personal faith" keep it hidden

- They either don't know the Lord's desire
- Or Don't know the Lord himself
- And care more about their own desires

A long time... given time to do what's right, given time to show ROI

The heavenly measure of good and evil, hard working and lazy: "Faithful not successful"

As we've been looking at the end days

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning [His] promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

:20-21

5 for 5, 100% growth/profit/ROI

"A few things..."

But this servant received the most out of the 3...

How many things are in our care? People? Response-abilities?

"You'll either people to gain things or use things to win people"

David in the field - overlooked, but he was doing the work

Call to ministry - ratifying the work already being done

Servant - doulos - bondsman *Paul talks about choice, awl*

"devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests"

Do we recognize our position, place, response-ability on this side of the kingdom?

Joy of your lord

Joy, gladness, joy received from someone, cause/occasion of joy

Doing well with what God has given us brings him joy and he wants us to experience His joy

Heaven is God's joy - to have us there. We think of it as ours, but we're entering into his place, his mansion, the world made after his design and ruled by him

Happiness vs. joy (circumstance vs deeper spiritual fulfillment)

Things, friends, family

How easily can joy be stolen from you? Happiness goes quick, joy remains

Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...where moth and rust and thief cannot get...

:22-23

Says the same thing

Same profit percentage (5:5, 2:2)

Talking about equality

Worldly definition in heavenly realm

*Equal in **value**, different in **role***

No one will be disappointed in heaven

Cup analogy - full up in heaven,

But don't you want more of it? Now and then?

:24-27

I knew you to be a hard man...and I was afraid

2 Timothy 1:7-8 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...

What we know (or think we know) about God, shapes how we live, behave and our eternal reward *(just as it does to our view of the rapture, the end times, the kingdom)*

"It is the genius of wicked men to lay the blame of their miscarriages upon others, oftentimes upon God himself...unreasonable excuse." (Poole). They do not know their Master's heart at all. DGC"

With Jesus, it's always and only about knowing God

- What do we **think** we know about God?
- Who do we **actually** know God to be?
- From what others say? Form what we think or blame him for?
- Or from actually **trusting** him at his word? (it's his word, he alone defines/explains/fulfills)

We only come to know God by believing in him and trusting him through Jesus

**We only know the real meaning of scripture by obeying it
But we only really know who God is when we trust his word**

God says he'll provide - we only know his provision when we let him do it in his way in his time as we trust his word through a hard time

Jesus keeps making the point that it's about knowing God personally

Individually. We won't stand before him in a group, each one in turn

Can't reap another's rewards

Won't be punished for another's sins

Bridesmaids last time

Buried the talent in the ground - literally the earth

In contrast to digging up the treasure, he buries it
In earthly, worldly things

Being created for a purpose vs. satan's counterfeit offering

Good to see musicians coming to Jesus

Athletes in all sorts of sports and venues proclaiming Him legitimately - in both winning & losing

Is the talent, money, what was entrusted itself what the lord cared about?

No, it was a tool to measure the servant - in order to bless

Allowance - i don't have to pay my kids, but if they choose to not do the work they ought to do naturally as a member of the family (shirk responsibility), only then does it become a method of punishment

...and I was afraid

Are we afraid of God? Of knowing Him? Of the end of the world? Of judgment?

Israelites not wanting to go up the mountain, then forbid from going up the mountain

What we think and feel about heaven, judgment, reward reveals a lot about our relationship with the King of Heaven

1 John 4:17-21 - Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God [must] love his brother also.

Not a proper fear of his master, but an unfitting fear of risk and failure (DGC)

:28-30

Therefore...

**The talent, the thing of worth that should have been looked after,
now given to the one shown to be the most responsible**

Responsibility over things in life - things lowest on the spiritual totem

Cars, house, clothes, possessions

Body, mind, spirit

Family, friends, others

Physical things, practical things - wisdom is a big deal in scripture

1 Timothy 4:8-11 - For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, **having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.** This [is] a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. **For to this [end] we both labor and suffer reproach,** because we trust in the living God, who is [the] Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. These things command and teach.

We should be physically and practically wise but not at the expense of spiritual wisdom

There are two kinds of wisdom: heavenly, earthly

James 3:13-18 - Who [is] wise and understanding among you? **Let him show by good conduct [that] his works [are done] in the meekness of wisdom.** But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. **This wisdom does not descend from above, but [is] earthly, sensual, demonic.** For where envy and self-seeking [exist], confusion and every evil thing [are] there. **But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.** Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Spiritual wisdom will lead to a measure of practical wisdom

Like a lesser form of love god love others

If we love god, we'll love others

If we're spiritually wise we'll want to be practically wise: Natural overflow

True spiritual wisdom gives birth to practical wisdom, fleshly wisdom kills the spirit

The beginning of wisdom...is to fear the Lord (fear him, not be afraid of him)

Romans 14:10-13 - But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? **For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.** For it is written: "[As] I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." **So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.** Therefore let us not judge one another

anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in [our] brother's way.

He will have abundance - sure this can be in practical things - take care of things and you'll be able to take care of more

Jesus is truly concerned about spiritual & eternal abundance - not physical

Galatians 5:18-26 - But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told [you] in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those [who are] Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

When our lives are buried in the earth, we're robbed of these things
When our lives are hidden in Christ, looking towards heaven - we have these things in abundance

Even if our earthly abundance comes up short

"If we cannot trade directly and personally on our Lord's account, if we have not the skill nor the tact to manage a society or an enterprise for him, we may at least contribute to what others are doing, and join our capital to theirs, so that, by some means, our Master may have the interest to which he is entitled." (Spurgeon)

Outer darkness - weeping and gnashing of teeth

Again, this highlights the spiritual reality of hell

The result of judgment without Jesus (all of this is in light of Jesus' return)

We are not annihilated - cease to exist.

We exist forever, in darkness, in misery, in torment apart from all that is Good - apart from our loving Creator - because of our own decision, not because of his lack of blessing or trying

What gives God joy? Servants who:

- Receive what He has given
- Invest and care for what He has entrusted
- Give Him more of what He originally gave when He returns
- Know not just what He expects, but know His heart

What grieves God? Servants who:

- Wickedness & spiritual laziness
- Thinking we know who God is with the fleshly mind at the expense of our spiritual heart
- False teachings, false ideas about him that we put our salvation on
- Foolishness for the kingdom - could have put in the bank for lousy interest rate, instead it's dirty and moldy and did nobody any good.
- **The thing designed to bring profit to the servant and the master was wasted not by being spent, but by not being used**

In reality, we, if we are good servants- are really friends

John 15:12-15 - "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. **"No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.**

Friends know each other's hearts, desires, joys & sorrows

Philippians 3:8-11 - Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which [is] from the law, but that which [is] through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and **the fellowship of His sufferings**, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

It takes faith to be a good servant

It takes trusting in the flesh to be a wicked servant:

- **Business world and spiritual world are not the same**
- Business is based on proving the numbers
- Reward is based on proving the promise

It takes faith to enter into joy

If we're being faith-full with our response-abilities, we'll have joy and abundance that will multiply and be something to give account for at his return - and our reward

His reward is our joy. Our reward is His Joy.

We should want to hear the words "Well done, good and faithful servant"

Because it's what He wants to say to us!

He wants to bless us far more than we even want the blessing.

Matthew 11:28-30 - Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light.

We can have Joy because It's Jesus' work.

It's the labor that won't make us weary.

His desire. His investment. His plan. His purpose.

What will we do with it?