

August 11, 2024
Matthew 25:14-30
"Oblivious"

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

The 10 virgins parable's focus was on waiting. The focus of the talents is readiness manifested in working. These two together depict a balanced Christian life.

Everyone in the church is supposed to be a true believer, this parable will flush out the fakers by what they do or do not do. The church is filled with people professing Jesus as Savior but how many are really His? These tests expose the faithful and the fakers. The Lord does not look for equal return from His followers, He looks for equal effort. Each servant will reap his own earned reward be it good or bad. How's your fruit?

The 3rd servant is labeled evil and lazy. This guy had not really expected his master to return so soon. If he had, maybe he would have gotten around to carving out a little time for him. But fakers wait around and think, if I really see anything coming around the corner that warrants my attention, then I will get serious with the Lord. You will know them by their fruit. The first two servants represent believers with lives well lived who are ready and eager to present themselves to Christ. The last one, not so much.

Vv 28-30, don't be surprised, there are and always have been wheat and tares in the church. We may not be able to distinguish them, but God does not miss a single one of them. To those who have more will be given. God's retirement plan is out of this world and cannot be beat. In Christ, gain everything, without Christ, lose everything. Outer darkness represents hell, gnashing of teeth signifies unrelieved agony of being separated from God forever. The lazy servant is there, will you be with him?

With the last servant the mood changes drastically. This servant portrays his master as unjust, like a farmer known for going around stealing from other farmers. The master does not dispute the lazy servant's characterization of himself, nor does he agree with it. We should not either.

Application:

A talent would take a day laborer 20 years to make this much income. This last dude's attitude towards the Giver was that His gift was worthless, he buried it. This is a picture of all in the church who are not really His, you know, fakers. There's varying responsibility according to varying ability. There are various gifts, opportunities, and circumstances for all, and the Lord assigns everyone responsibilities accordingly. Genuine believers produce spiritual fruit, fakers cannot. Is your faith genuine?