


## SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS

### The Blessed and the Cursed      Matthew 25:1-46

*"When the Son of Man comes in his glory...[a]ll the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."*

Matthew 25:31-32

#### Day 1: Read Matthew 25:1-13.

1. What do you think the foolish virgins have assumed about the bridegroom's arrival? In contrast, why are the wise virgins wise?
2. What happens to the virgins who are ready for the bridegroom's arrival? To the virgins who are not ready?
3. Who is the bridegroom? (9:14-15; Rev. 19:6b-9)
4. What is the point of this parable? (v. 13; 24:44; \* 1 Thes. 5:1-3)

#### Day 2: Read Matthew 25:14-30.

5. What do the first two servants do with the talents (units of money) entrusted to them? What does the third servant do?
6. How does the returned master respond to the first two servants? What do they receive?
7. How does the third servant's view of his master effect what he does with the talent he was given?

How might the actions of the first two servants tell us how they view the master?


#### Day 3: Read Matthew 25:14-30.

8. "Talents" in this parable might stand for anything we've been given, possibly including our talents and abilities, but certainly including the blessings and opportunities we have as heirs of the kingdom of heaven.
  - a. Name some of the blessings and gifts you have been given.
  - b. How can you invest one of these blessings or gifts to honor the Master?

\* The  symbol identifies verses for further study.

9. Our culture tells us to develop our talents and abilities as a means of self-fulfillment. What motivates servants in the Kingdom to be faithful? (Phil. 2:1-2; Col. 3:23-24)

**Day 4: Read Matthew 25:31-46.**

10. What is the scene in this passage? (v. 31) What is happening? (vv. 32-33;  Rev. 20:11-15)

11. For what does the King commend the sheep?

For what does the King condemn the goats?

12. What grand, Nobel-worthy act of philanthropy have the "sheep" performed? What scandalous, splashed-across-the-front-page kind of sin have the "goats" committed?

13. What happens to the "sheep"? What happens to the "goats"?

14. All of our readings this week—the parable of the virgins, the parable of the talents, and the account of the sheep and goats—include pictures of judgment. In all three passages how many groups are people divided into? Is there any "in-between" group?

**Day 5: Read Matthew 25:31-46.**

15. Who are the "brothers" Jesus refers to in verse 40? (12:48-49)

16. Why is a person's treatment of Jesus' followers the test here for true faith? In other words, what does kindness toward a disciple of Jesus say about the person's relationship to Jesus himself? (v. 40; 10:40-42; Gal. 6:10)

17. How does this judgment scene challenge your priorities and the way you spend your time?