

Think About Points to Ponder and Words to Think About

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Thoughts related to the Parables

How can we be prepared when the Lord comes?

The Bible teaches us that we can make our calling and election sure. II Peter 1:10

What does Peter teach that we need to do to make our calling and election sure?
(II Peter 1:1-11)

What does John teach about God's forgiveness in I John 1:1-10?

All members are important. Each us have separate abilities which God can use.

Romans 12:1-10

I Corinthians 12

What can we learn from the passages listed above?

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A Study of Matthew

Matthew 25:1-46

Lesson 23

Assignment for next Week — Read Matthew 26:1-75

Memory Verse — Matthew 25:40

God has promised us a great reward through his Son. God's gift to us is great; however, he does require obedience and action from us. Nothing we could have ever done could have purchased our salvation, but God has promised us that if we will believe him and serve him by faith, He will count us as righteous like Abraham.

In Matthew 25 we have three lessons on the coming of Christ and judgement. It is important for us to learn from these teachings so that we can prepare ourselves to be found as the Lord would want us to be. The first lesson is that we should make adequate preparation, the second is that we should use whatever abilities God gives us no matter how great or small they may be, and third we should be about doing good and showing the love of God.

In numerous passages the Bible teaches us the importance of making our calling and election sure. It is critical that we examine ourselves on a regular basis to make sure that we are following God and that our heart is right before Him. God loves us and does not wish that any should perish, but he has appointed a day when he will judge the world. If we wait until he comes to try and make our life and heart right it will be to late. The parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins teaches us the importance of preparation. The five foolish had not made provision and prepared themselves. The five wise made preparation and were prepared when the Lord came. We do not know when the Lord will come and so we need to

always be ready for him to come. Every day we should be seeking to become more like Jesus. We should not be waiting for when we get older or for some other event to occur. Our daily task should be to seek to become more like our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

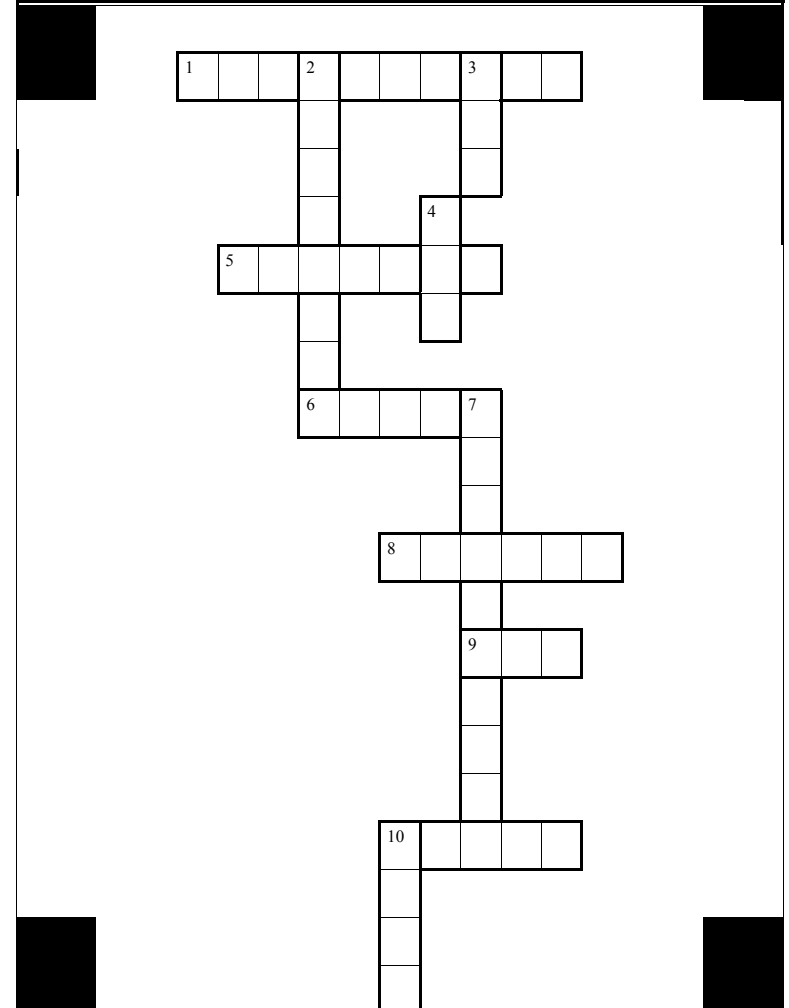
God has given us each different talents and abilities to use for him in his service. To some He has given many abilities while others may only have a few; however, God requires the same thing from all us – that we serve him with whatever he has blessed us with. The parable of the talents stresses the importance of using what God gives us to our fullest ability. If our talent is teaching, then we should teach. If our talent is encouragement, then we should encourage. If our talent is service, then we should serve. Each us have talents that can be used for God and it is our responsibility to use them. If we live like the one talent man and hide our talent or talents the Lord will punish us. There is great reward in using our talents. If we will use our talents we will find our life more rewarding and enjoyable.

Each day we live we will find opportunities to serve others. Part of the basic nature of a Christian should be service. In the last lesson in Matthew 25 Christ tells of the judgement and of the separation of the sheep and goats. Christ then relates this to those who have served others on this earth and those who have not. Christ teaches that as often as we help others we are helping him.

Our life should show Christ and we should treat others like we would treat our Lord, with love and compassion. God will not show mercy on us if we have not shown mercy to others. It is worthy of note that Jesus would teach these lessons so close to his rebuke of the Pharisees and scribes in the 23rd chapter. Christ had taught earlier that if we are to enter the Kingdom our righteousness must exceed that of the Pharisees.

W
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CROSS
R

Answer the Questions on Page
to fill in the Puzzle.



Cross Word Fun for Learning

Across

1. This is whom the ten virgins went forth to meet.(25:1)
5. The king told those who had fed, clothed, and visited others to enter into this because by serving others they had served him. (25:34)
6. Two types of animals were described in the judgment one was goats and the other was _____. These animals representing mankind were separated in this judgement scene. (25:33)
8. The five talent and two talent man both went and did this with their talents. The five talent man had five talents and went and _____ five more.(25:17)
9. This is what the one talent man did with his talent. He went and dug and _____ his talent.(25:18)
10. Jesus warned his disciples to do this because they would not know when he would come.(25:13)

Down

2. The man who did not use his talent was cast into outer _____.(25:30)
3. The foolish virgins wanted to borrow some of this from the wise virgins.(25:8)
4. The five and two talent man were told to enter into this of their Lord.(25:21)
7. Those who had not helped their brother were titled as the goats and were cast into _____.(25:46)
10. These virgins were not foolish and were prepared when the bridegroom came.(25:4)

Lesson 22 - Across - 1. Ware, 3. Father, 4. Daniel,
6. Prophets, 8. Thief, 9. Judea - Down - 1. World,
2. Earthquakes, 5. Lightning, 7. Temple

From these lessons we can learn that we should be doing God's will now and we should seek to make sure we are prepared. Also we should use the abilities that God has blessed us with to serve Him and those around us. As we serve others we should remember that we are serving Christ. May God bless us as we each seek to live as our Father would have us to and may our lives be a blessing to those around us.

Fill in the Blanks - (II Peter 3:9-10a)

The Lord is not _____ concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is _____ to us-ward, not willing that any should _____, but that all should come to _____. But the day of the Lord will come as a _____ in the night; in the which the _____ shall pass away with a great noise, and the _____ shall melt . . .

Match the Passages and Events

Events

AA. Parable of the Ten Virgins

BB. Parable of the Talents

CC. Jesus told of his coming and the Judgement

Passages

- a.25:1 b. 25:2 c. 25:3-4 d. 25:9-10
e. 25:11-13 f. 25:14-15 g. 25:18 h. 25:20
i. 25:22 j. 25:24-29 k. 25:32 l. 25:34

Event-Passage

- _____ - _____ 1. Some took extra oil for their lamps while others did not.
_____ - _____ 2. One Slave who had five talents went and gained five more.
_____ - _____ 3. One Slave who had two talents went and gained two more.
_____ - _____ 4. While the foolish went to buy oil the bridegroom came.
_____ - _____ 5. The Sheep will be separated from the goats.
_____ - _____ 6. The Lord will not open to those who were not ready.
_____ - _____ 7. They waited for the bridegroom.
_____ - _____ 8. The slave who had one talent hid it in the earth.
_____ - _____ 9. Five were foolish and five wise.
_____ - _____ 10. Those who have helped others and done the will of the father will hear, Blessed ones of my Father, inherit the kingdom.
_____ - _____ 11. A man entrusted his servants with different amounts of his possessions.
_____ - _____ 12. The master punished the one talent man for doing nothing.

Questions

1. What made the five wise virgins wise?
2. What made the five foolish virgins foolish?
3. Why were the foolish not allowed to enter the wedding feast?
4. What is the lesson for us from the parable of the five wise and five foolish virgins?
5. What was the reward given to the five talent and two talent man? Why were they rewarded?
6. What was the punishment of the one talent man? Why was he punished?
7. What is the lesson for us from the parable of the talents?
8. Whom did Jesus tell to enter into the joy of everlasting life? Why?
9. Whom did Jesus tell to depart from him into everlasting punishment? Why?
10. What can we learn from the Judgment scene Jesus told about?