

Overview

• Jesus explains how people living in His Kingdom act in this life. It will determine whether they end up in His Kingdom in the next life and whether they left this world better than they found it as well as enjoying the joy and abundance of Kingdom living here and now

1-V1-13 He first talks about having an **"inner spirituality"** whether we have _____ (the Holy Spirit) in our _____, that is our soul. Of the ten _____ speaking of Christians (the bride of Christ) who were in the outer church _____ had a relationship with Christ and _____ did not. The Lord told the five _____ bridesmaids-- "*I don't _____ you,*" because they had not gotten to know Him.

2-V14-30 Another mark of Kingdom living is **responsible use** of the resources God has given us to do Kingdom work. Jesus tells a story about three men who were given bags of gold—dividing it in proportion to their _____. Two of the men _____ their investment. The master said to them, "Well _____ my good and faithful _____, I give you many _____ responsibilities. Let us _____ together." One man dug a _____ for his life's resources and lived like the people of the world. Jesus called him a "_____ and _____ servant...*Now throw this _____ servant into the outer _____ where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*"

3-V31-42 A third issue in Kingdom living is what we do about the **disenfranchised and suffering people**—*The _____, the thirsty, the _____, the naked, the _____, and those in prison.* He compares those who involve themselves in the life of their community, nation, and work to do and promote social justice _____ and says of them "*Come, you who are _____ by my Father, _____ the Kingdom prepared for _____ from the foundation of the world.*" He says to those who ignored people's needs, judged them as undeserving, and made high sounding excuses as _____ --- "*You _____ to help the _____ of these _____ brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help _____ --Go away into _____ punishment.*"

Word Study • FOOLISH • SLEEP • KNOW • BAGS OF GOLD
• BRIDEGROOM • KINGDOM • OIL • BLESSED * ABILITIES • RESPONSIBILITIES • SHEEP AND GOATS •

1.V1 _____ Jesus said, "*the Kingdom of Heaven is within you.*" (Luke 17:21) Every government is first within the mind and will of its leaders and citizens. What is good and evil, wisdom or un-workable in the mind precedes the acts of the government—its laws, its selection of leaders, its social and economic policies, its organization, its goals and values. So the inner Kingdom of God has outward manifestation in what happens in this life and in the life to come. Jesus will judge whether people belong in the manifestation of His Kingdom in the next life by how they live and work out the government and values of His Kingdom in this life. Issues that are talked about in this Scripture have to do with inner spirituality, responsible use of our life and its resources, how we treat the weak and hurting.

2.V1 _____ The Jewish wedding custom separated marriage from the husband and wife coming together to live together. After the marriage the husband needed to make a home for his wife. When the home was finished and inspected by his father then he could come and take his wife to their home. So the coming of the bridegroom depended on when he finished their house. It could be anytime. This same imagery is used by the Lord in John 14:1-3 where He says, "*I go to prepare a place for you and when everything is ready I will come and get you...*"

3.V2 _____ "To behave in a thoughtless or irresponsible way. To waste time by doing silly or unimportant things. "Proverbs talks about two major characters "the WISE MAN" and the "not wise man—the FOOL." He ignores wisdom. Peter speaking about the end of our world and the certain prospect of having to answer for our lives says, "*Since everything is going to melt away, what holy, godly lives you should be living!*" 2 Peter 2:3 "*For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in our bodies.*" 2 Corinthians 5:10

4.V3 _____ This is used as an outward symbol of the Holy Spirit. The anointing with oil is an outward sign of the impartation of the Holy Spirit. THE LAMP. In this case the lamp probably refers to our inner person, our souls. The question that is raised then by the oil in my lamp--- Is the Holy Spirit present in my life?---Am I living the kind of life that is opened to the increasing presence, life, and Lordship of the Holy Spirit? We are told to "*continually be being filled with the Holy Spirit.*" Ephesians 5:18. We are told to "*live according to the Holy Spirit*"*to be controlled by the Holy Spirit*" 5:16, 23 .

5.V5 _____ Sleep in the Scripture is most often used to speak of "not being ready" "*Another reason for right living is that you know how late it is, time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So don't live in darkness. Get rid of your evil deeds. Shed them like dirty clothing. Clothe yourself in ...right living.*" Rom.13:11

6.V12 _____ This comment by the Bridegroom (Jesus Himself) is about the same as His comment in Matthew 7:21-23 Where Jesus tells people who told Him that they had prophesied, did miracles, cast out demons in His name that He never knew them because they were actually Lone Rangers who were not really obeying the Father in Heaven. There was no submission or heart relationship to the Father--- just outward religious activity.

7.V14 _____ The "Man" is the Father. The "servant" is each person born on earth who has given life, time, personal gifts, resources and opportunities to build up the Father's house on earth that His house in heaven will be full. • "Going On A Trip." It is our experience that Father God has taken His hand off our life---we can do what we want to with what we are and have. "*The earth He has given to the sons of men.*" Psalm 115:16

8.V15 _____ Jesus said, that "*to whom much is given, much is required and to whom little is given little is required.*" Luke 12:48 . People who are born with blessings--- good parents, money, education, good minds, athletic, musical and such abilities have not been given more to spend on themselves but have actually a greater accountability. However each person is responsible for profitable use of what has been given them. V30 It is said that some of the greatest works of God have been done by submitted but not so talented people. For example, Mother Teresa.

9.V21 _____ We must watch out that we are not deceived into seeing meaningful work and service as a burden for us, The Lord calls it reward.

10.V33 _____ Goats were clean animals and as acceptable for sacrifices to God as sheep. So the Lord is saying that there are two kinds of people clean in the Father's sight because they have received Him as their Lord and cleanser of their body and soul. • The Lord's point is that the hidden attitude of people in His church causes some to be sheep--willing and obedient....OR to be goats full of themselves and their own plans for their lives ..And because of that they do not ever really do ministry to suffering people in their path.

11.V34 _____ Even as the Lord planned each of our existence before the foundation of the world and our salvation Ephesians 1:4-6 ...He also planned an eternity of blessing in the life after this life.

What does this Scripture say to you?
