

# VILLAGE

## CHURCH

### Bible Study Notes

**Intro Question:**

1. What would you do with a bag of gold?

**Pray:** for God's help to be Kingdom minded.

**Read:** Matthew 25

**Questions about the passage:**

1. Go through each parable and:
  - a. Identify who the main characters/groups are in the parable.
  - b. Discuss the main point of each parable.
  - c. Consider what links the three parables together.

**Questions for us:**

- What do these parables show about the character of God/Jesus?
- What do these parables mean for believers and unbelievers?
- How should Christians respond to these parables?
- What is one thing you need to repent of/change/do this week in response to Jesus' teachings?

**Pray:** for us to listen to our King and do his Kingdom work.

**Homework:** Re-read these parables this week.

**Remind:** Easter Gatherings - 9am Good Friday & Easter Sunday

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For the next bunch of weeks, until Easter, we will be working through the end of Matthew's gospel (starting at chapter 17) as Jesus continues his ministry up to it's final endpoint - his death & resurrection.

This week, Jesus answers the questions of his opponents and points out their hypocrisy.

#### **Questions about the passage:**

- Go through each parable and:
  - Identify who the main characters/groups are in the parable.
  - Discuss the main point of each parable.
  - Consider what links the three parables together.

This should all be pretty straight forward.

Just a few things to be wary of. Remember how to engage with parables. Often, not all the details mean something. For instance, I don't think there's any significance to the 10 virgins. It's just an example similar to sheep/goats, there's a division between those who were prepared and those who weren't.

Also - I think you need to be careful with verse 24. It's not that Jesus is that kind of master, he is fair and just. However, to those who do nothing with God's Kingdom, he will judge them harshly because they have been 'worthless' when we were made to be fruitful.

Finally, be careful in taking v35-36 too literally. It's Kingdom work that Jesus is looking for, which includes caring for the sick or homeless. But this is symbolic of Kingdom work that also cares for the spiritually poor and homeless.

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#### Questions for us:

- What do these parables show about the character of God/Jesus?

How does he bridegroom/master/shepherd speak to Jesus/God's character?

- What do these parables mean for believers and unbelievers?

These parables have two different messages for two different types of people. What are those messages?

- How should Christians respond to these parables?

What does it look like to be Kingdom-minded people.

- What is one thing you need to repent of/change/do this week in response to Jesus' teachings?

Encourage people to be vulnerable and to wrestle with their own hearts/minds/actions.