

## One of the MOST Disturbing Chapters in the Bible

Matthew 25:1-13; 14-30; 31-46;

**PRINCIPLE #1.** Matthew 25 is one of the most disturbing chapters in the Bible. Verse one begins with Jesus saying that the kingdom of heaven is comparable to 10 virgins. He is talking about people who have kept themselves \_\_\_\_\_ and undefiled. This chapter is divided into 3 parts:

The first part begins with 10 virgins who were all waiting for the bridegroom to come. **The bridegroom seems to be symbolic of Jesus.** They all had oil which is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. They all became drowsy and began to sleep as they waited for the bridegroom who had delayed his coming. **They all thought they were ready. But 50% were not ready and were not even \_\_\_\_\_ by the bridegroom.** Verses 11-13;

In the parable of the talents the kingdom of heaven is comparable to a man who is about to go on a journey and calls 3 of his slaves together and gives them assignments.

**Each person was given an assignment based on \_\_\_\_\_.** The person given the least assignment was not willing to exercise obedience in the instructions he had been given and **chose to rely on his \_\_\_\_\_** rather than the **confidence his master had in assigning responsibilities** based on what he knew to be his slaves' abilities.

**This parable seems to illustrate Jesus returning to the Father and leaving His kingdom on earth in the hands of His followers.** When the master returned to settle \_\_\_\_\_ and issue rewards and punishments, the **servant who had disobeyed was cast into outer darkness.**

**The third section deals with the final judgment, which will involve every person who has ever lived.** But this judgment, which is being discussed by Jesus, seems to focus **more on \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ephesians 2 makes it clear that we are saved by faith and not works, but it also indicates we are saved FOR something besides heaven. We are saved FOR \_\_\_\_\_. Works should always be the RESULT of our faith and not the CAUSE.**

James 2:14; 15-17; 18; 19-20; 21-26;

**PRINCIPLE #2.** We are saved by **GRACE** through **FAITH**. We are **NOT** saved by **WORKS**; but we are saved \_\_\_\_\_.

Ephesians 2:8-10;

If salvation is attainable through works then people with superior works could boast and exercise pride over those with inferior works. We are saved by **FAITH** so that none of us can boast \_\_\_\_\_ because the **FAITH** we have is a gift from God.

But verse 10 makes it clear that we are created **FOR GOOD WORKS.**

Matthew 25:31-33;

Matthew 25:34-40;

**PRINCIPLE #3.** Jesus commends the "sheep" on His right for taking care of His needs. They are shocked and ask when they did all of these things for Him? Jesus replies that when they did things for the least and most inconspicuous brothers of His they did it for Him.

The things these people did appear to be the \_\_\_\_\_ result of **FAITH** and **WORKS** cooperating together. **These people did not even know that they had done anything \_\_\_\_\_ or extraordinary.**

Matthew 25:41-46;

**What type of people might be in this group?**

1. People who were not followers of Jesus.
2. People who believed that Jesus was the Son of God, but who did not allow Him to \_\_\_\_\_ of their life.
3. People who attended church services and people who did not.
4. People who were \_\_\_\_\_ leaders.
5. People who were \_\_\_\_\_ by the world's standards.
6. People who had faith, but no works.
7. People whose faith was the \_\_\_\_\_ of their works.

Matthew 7:21-23;

**PRINCIPLE #4.** Salvation **FAITH** is based on **WHO** Jesus is and **WHAT** He did for us. **WORKS** faith is based on the things we have done \_\_\_\_\_ salvation on our own.

The works we engage in are to be the works Jesus desires to do as He lives His life through us. **It is NOT us working for Him, but Him working \_\_\_\_\_.**

Matthew 25 is exhorting us that the things we do or do not do for the \_\_\_\_\_ and most inconspicuous people **are the things we do or do not do for JESUS.**

Luke 10:25-37;

**PRINCIPLE #5.** A man is beaten and robbed and left on the side of the road half dead. A priest and a religious leader pass by and ignore him completely. Finally a Samaritan comes on the scene and begins to minister to him. He pays for his medical needs and for his care and recovery. The Samaritans were \_\_\_\_\_ by the Jews.

When Jesus asked the lawyer which man had acted as a neighbor, he could not bring himself to say, "The Samaritan". Instead he replied, "The one who showed mercy toward him."

Matthew 25 tells us that the man who was beaten was \_\_\_\_\_, figuratively. Based on this story, which of these 3 individuals would be with the sheep and which would be with the goats?

Romans 12:3;

Philippians 2:3-5;

Matthew 5:17;

Romans 13:8-10;

Proverbs 4:23;