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### **Inner Growth - Jesus 14**

**The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

**Matthew 1:1**

**Journey - Luke 9:3**

**Enlighten - Job 33:30**

**Saves - Psalms 18:31, 1 Timothy 1:15**

**Unity - Ephesians 4:13**

**Sinners - Luke 5:32**

Jesus continues His ministry in Matthew twenty-five, verses one through thirteen, with **the parable of the ten virgins**. The parable of the ten virgins emphasizes that all believers must constantly look to their spiritual condition in light of Christ's coming at an unknown and unexpected time. They must persevere in faith so that when the day and hour arrive, they will receive acceptance by the returning Lord in verse ten. Failure to have a personal relationship with the Lord at His return means exclusion from His presence and Kingdom.

What differentiates the foolish from the wise is the failure to recognize that the returning Lord will come at an unexpected time, a time not preceded with unmistakable and specific observable signs, as in chapter twenty-five, verse thirteen. Christ indicates here and elsewhere that many within the church will

be unprepared for His return, as in verses eight through thirteen. Therefore, Christ makes clear He will not wait until all churches are ready for His coming.

In **the parable of the ten virgins**, the faithful and unfaithful were surprised at the bridegroom's coming, as in verses five to seven. The example suggests that the parable of the ten virgins supplies to believers living before the tribulation and not those living during the tribulation, who will have adequate signs preceding Christ's return at the end of the tribulation. Jesus continues the ministry teaching about the oil from Matthew twenty-five, verse four. The Son of God, in a series of illustrations in chapter twenty-five, stresses the requirement of faithfulness and watchfulness until He returns. The **parable of the ten virgins** emphasizes the necessity of perseverance in faith and spiritual preparedness because of the danger of Christ's coming at the unforeseeable date. The oil in the parable represents true faith, righteousness, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. Five other parables that teach the lesson of perseverance are the sower in Luke eight, verses four through fifteen, the owner of the house in Luke twelve, verses thirty-five through forty, the manager in Luke twelve, verses forty-two to forty-eight, the tower builder in Luke fourteen, verses twenty-eight through thirty, and the tasteless salt in Luke fourteen, verses thirty-four through thirty-five.

Jesus continues His ministry by teaching **the parable of the talents** in verse fifteen of Matthew twenty-five and warns that our place and service in heaven will depend on the faithfulness of our lives and service here on earth, as in verse twenty-nine. A talent represents the ability, time, resources, and opportunities to serve God, considered by God as a trust that we are responsible for administering in the wisest possible way.

Jesus continues teaching with **everyone that hath** gives the principle from verse twenty-nine about the believer's reward and state of heaven. What believers receive in the future Kingdom of God will depend upon what they possess now. Their position and inheritance in heaven will be in the capacity of their present commitment to God's ways and Kingdom. Jesus continues His teaching in verse thirty-two, with the **sheep from the goats**. The sheep and goat judgment occurs after the tribulation and Christ's return to earth but before the beginning of his earthly reign, as in Daniel seven, verses nine through fourteen, Revelation Five, verse ten, and chapters nineteen to twenty, verse four. When Christ's coming, the saved and lost living on earth surviving the tribulation are still together. The judgment involves the separation of the wicked from the righteous, as in Matthew twenty-five, verses thirty-two through thirty-three. The decision will be on outward works of love and kindness to those belonging to Christ and who are suffering. The expression of love and compassion is an inherent part of true faith and salvation, as in Matthew twenty-five, verses thirty-five through forty-six.

The wicked will not be allowed to enter Christ's Kingdom but will go into eternal punishment, as in verses forty-one and forty-six, and Revelation fourteen, verse eleven. The righteous will inherit eternal life, as in Matthew twenty-five, verse forty-six, and the Kingdom of God.

Jesus continues in verse forty-one with **the devil and his angels**. Satan's initial rebellion against God drew with him a third of the heavenly angels, as in Revelation twelve, verse four. Some of these are bound in hell, as in Second Peter two, verse four, and Jude verse six. At the same time, the rest are free and exist under Satan's dominion and control, as in Matthew twelve, verse twenty-four, chapter twenty-five, verse forty-one,

Ephesians two, verse two, and Revelation twelve, verse seven. These free angels are highly organized emissaries, as in Ephesians six, verses eleven through twelve, and are probably identical to the demons referred to in the Bible.