

THE TRILOGY OF JUDGMENT

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The details within these parables of Jesus, reveal much more than we could ever imagine. The clarity and direction offered to us is truly refreshing and yet simple at the same time. The indwelling power of the Spirit is able to open up much of this wisdom and wonderfully reveal, vital and marvellous truths. Many Christians waste their lives trying to find righteousness by avoiding sin... they are doomed to fail, because they miss the mark... ALL SIN CANNOT BE AVOIDED... nor do they have the correct motivation. The worst mistake you can make as a Christian is not based on sins you have committed, but upon your failure to do the will of God.

The following chapter reveals three parables of judgment (trilogy,) against Christians. It follows on from a full chapter of warnings relating to the return of Christ and the accompanying signs, circumstances and failings of our modern world.

MAT 25:1-13 The ten virgins... This parable reveals true foolishness (a very close friend of ignorance and laziness), as the primary cause of their rejection.

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. Some get confused with the significance of this parable. After all, we know that the Holy Spirit (oil), cannot be purchased. Therefore, the issue is not about buying oil, the issue more reflects upon the ability of the foolish to maintain their supply, and lack of wisdom to do so. Trying to get the wise to lower their standards and lessen their 'oil' is rejected... God's standards will not be compromised, but what standard is being referred to?

14-30 The buried talent... reveals the results of fear and the limiting powers it produces.

24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: The mindset of this man was not the same as his master... he was badly mistaken. God didn't want him to play it safe. God wanted to see acts of boldness... he wanted to see plenty of sowing and reaping... he was to use his gift, make gains for God.

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. To correctly appreciate this parable we need to understand that one talent was the equivalent of twenty years of a day laborer's wages (\$624,000... 1 day x \$100 x 6 day week). Too many people have a savings mindset, they want to keep what they have, they want to play safe... they are planning not to lose. Yet, the parable of the talents is all about an investment mindset, stepping out to get more. It's playing to win for the Lord. In the church, there can be a lot of focus on avoiding sin and the recovery from it, because it is easier to identify. But the greatest regrets at the end of our lives won't be the things we did wrong. It will be not doing the right things... things we could have, should have, and would have done to those we love or to whom God loves. What are the right things?

31-46 The sheep and goats... clearly details the results of fear, ignorance and self determined righteousness and why it fails. The self-righteous are not able to correct themselves, because they cannot and will not understand true love.

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? How did we miss the point?

45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. You are happy to judge them with your values, but won't love them with my values.

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

You will notice that the third and explanatory parable summarizes and details the nature of true failure. The sins, which we normally think of... murder, immorality, theft, dishonesty, etc, are not mentioned in any of the three parables. In fact, none were accused of the types of sins that most Christians spend their whole lives trying to avoid, and worse, judge and condemn others for doing... yet all three parables reveal a judgment of certain death. This will come as a shock to many, because they often think that discipline and punishment rather than loving support are needed.

Jesus summarized the duty of all Christians... LUK 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. Care for others the way that you care for those of your own flesh and blood... love God's children with the same love that a father has for a son or daughter. Fathers don't spend their whole lives concentrating on what they shouldn't do... they simply perform continuous acts of love. When you love your children you tend not to sin against them... that is the best incentive to avoid sin and also gets the best results. While you are focused on sins and failings instead of mercy and forgiveness, you will end up living in fear and doubts and mistrust will take over. If we do harm to those we love, we humbly admit our mistakes and continue to build and maintain the relationship. The greatest failure is not to sin, but to fail to love God's people the way that he loves them. Those who love God, know how to love their brothers, they know how to repair offences... are you willing to step out in boldness and conform to this way of life? Natural sin can certainly have its consequences, but failure to love is worse than any natural sin... thus this trilogy.