

A Glimpse of the Kingdom of God



“History does not teach
fatalism...People get the history
they deserve.”

---Charles deGaulle

A Mother's Request: Matthew 20:20-28 (NIV)

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²² “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?”

“We can,” they answered.

²³ Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The Lesson Learned...

Jesus described His kingdom from a new perspective. Instead of using people, we are to serve them. Someone in God's Kingdom has a servant heart. Servant leaders appreciate other's worth and realize that they are not above any job. Take the initiative and do it as a faithful servant.

The Parable of Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

The Message, is a contemporary rendering of the Bible from the original languages, crafted to present its tone, rhythm, events and ideas in everyday language.

The Parable of Ten Virgins (The Message)

Matthew 25:1-13

1-5 “God’s kingdom is like ten young virgins who took oil lamps and went out to greet the bridegroom. Five were silly and five were smart. The silly virgins took lamps, but no extra oil. The smart virgins took jars of oil to feed their lamps. The bridegroom didn’t show up when they expected him, and they all fell asleep.

⁶ “In the middle of the night someone yelled out, ‘He’s here! The bridegroom’s here! Go out and greet him!’

⁷⁻⁸ “The ten virgins got up and got their lamps ready. The silly virgins said to the smart ones, ‘Our lamps are going out; lend us some of your oil.’

⁹ “They answered, ‘There might not be enough to go around; go buy your own.’

¹⁰ “They did, but while they were out buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. When everyone who was there to greet him had gone into the wedding feast, the door was locked.

¹¹ “Much later, the other virgins, the silly ones, showed up and knocked on the door, saying, ‘Master, we’re here. Let us in.’

¹² “He answered, ‘Do I know you? I don’t think I know you.’¹³ “So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive.

The Lesson Learned...

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3. Our relationship with God must be our own.

The Parable of The Talents

Matthew 25:14-30 (The Message)

14-18 “It’s also like a man going off on an extended trip. He called his servants together and delegated responsibilities. To one he gave five thousand dollars, to another two thousand, to a third one thousand, depending on their abilities. Then he left. Right off, the first servant went to work and doubled his master’s investment. The second did the same. But the man with the single thousand dug a hole and carefully buried his master’s money.

19-21 “After a long absence, the master of those three servants came back and settled up with them. The one given five thousand dollars showed him how he had doubled his investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’ 22-23 “The servant with the two thousand showed how he also had doubled his master’s investment. His master commended him: ‘Good work! You did your job well. From now on be my partner.’

24-25 “The servant given one thousand said,
‘Master, I know you have high standards and hate
careless ways, that you demand the best and
make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might
disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and
secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound
down to the last cent.’

26-27 “The master was furious. ‘That’s a terrible way to live! It’s criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least? The least you could have done would have been to invest the sum with the bankers, where at least I would have gotten a little interest. 28-30 “‘Take the thousand and give it to the one who risked the most. And get rid of this “play-it-safe” who won’t go out on a limb. Throw him out into utter darkness.’

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2. Everyone is held accountable for what they do with their opportunity.

3. Everyone is responsible for leveraging their opportunity to the maximum.

For Daily Use: You have 4 Major Responsibilities

1. Relationships (Souls)
2. Finances
3. Work
4. Walk With God (the most important of all)