

## The Parables about the Importance to be Ready



Three wise virgins showing their joy at Magdeburg Cathedral

### **Aims:**

1. To identify the parables about the importance to be ready
2. To understand the meanings behind the parable about the importance to be ready. To realize the great importance and seriousness of these parables as specific instructions to us about how to be ready on judgment day.
3. To learn how to relate these parables to our own lives. To understand what our Lord considers important to have, what things He will look at, what things He will require, how we will be judged, what is expected if us etc.

4. To be ready when the Bridegroom comes (i.e. Judgment Day) and to comprehend just how important it is for us to be ready, so much so that our Lord spent so much time and effort on speaking to us in many parables about this same topic.

### **Memory Verse:**

*“Give an account of your stewardship” (Luke 16:2)*

OR

*“Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet Him” (Matthew 25:6)*

OR

*“Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect” (Matthew 24:44)*

### **To The Servant**

1. You have been entrusted with a precious property, i.e., the children whom you have to serve. They need your effort and care. This is the property of

which you will hand in a complete account... Examine yourself... did you trade with them and win other children or did you leave them as they are or did you neglect what the Lord had given to you?

2. Remember each one of them when you pray... Be a good model for them. Woe to him by whom temptations come.
3. Consider the talents that God has given you and see how you traded with them (Knowledge -health -time - the members of your body).
4. Contemplate the case of the Dishonest Steward who invested what would be taken from him in order to prepare a happy living for himself later on. Compare this with the matters pertaining to this world, which will be taken from us after death, and consider how we must trade with them in the hope that we may gain eternal life (Luke 16:1-13).

### **Lesson Plan**

We have focused on three parables only as it would be too difficult to focus on all.

The rest of the parables have been included below the three explanations.

*BASICALLY all use the same delivery style (parable) but with a different illustration, to deliver the same message – to be ready!*

Read through all the parables about the importance to be ready and choose which ones to expand on as more relevant and applicable to your class.

OR

Use the three parables that have been explained here or one or two of them

OR

Focus on **all** the parables more briefly... the sky is the limit!!!

### **References:**

The Holy Bible

“St. Matthew’s Gospel” Fagala, Page 106,107

Sunday School Curriculum of Southern California

The Ten Virgins- H.H. Pope Shenouda III

## Introduction:

- Read the parable(s) you are going to focus on with the class
- Ask your Sunday school class to identify as many parables as they can relating to the need to be ready and ask them to explain why.
- Ask your Sunday School children why the Lord did speak in parables and not plain language – **see Matthew 13: 10 – 17 below...**

*13:10 And the disciples came and said to Him, Why do You speak to them in parables?*

*13:11 He answered and said to them, Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.*

*13:12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.*

*13:13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.*

*13:14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: `Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive;*

*13:15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'*

*13:16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;*

*13:17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*

Also, our Lord used different parables to appeal to the different audiences He was targeting at the time; e.g. with farmers he used a wheat and tares and a fig tree parable, with those that felt they were the best (Scribes & Pharisees etc), He used the parable of the *wedding feast*, etc...

## The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins



Three foolish virgins showing their sorrow at Magdeburg Cathedral

Matthew 25: 14-30 – The Wise and Foolish Virgins

**Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.**

**25:2** Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

**25:3** Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,  
**25:4** but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

**25:5** But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

**25:6** And at midnight a cry was heard: `Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

**25:7** Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

**25:8** And the foolish said to the wise, `Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

**25:9** But the wise answered, saying, `No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

**25:10** And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

**25:11** Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, `Lord, Lord, open to us!'

**25:12** But he answered and said, `Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

**25:13** Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

### Lesson Outline:

- This parable illustrates lack of preparation for the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The prophets of the Old Testament portray the covenant between God and Israel as a marriage covenant. This parable shows that the marriage will finally be consummated when the Bridegroom returns at the end of times and the righteous form a wedding party to go forth and meet Him. The Bridegroom represents Our Lord Jesus Christ in His Passion, who dies out of love for His church (Orthodox Study Bible).

□ **Oil:** Symbolizes the good works. A believer uses his talents to build up enough good works to last him in order to be ready with enough oil when the bridegroom (Christ) comes. These works come about by faith that works through **love**.

□ **They all slumbered and slept:** Both the wise and the foolish virgins slumbered and slept. The wise virgins were prepared to receive the Bridegroom and were able to rest. Their refusal to give the foolish virgins oil does not show a lack of love. Spiritual preparedness cannot be given or borrowed. If we do not prepare ourselves spiritually for the Second Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we will be just like the five foolish virgins who were not ready for the Bridegroom's coming and were not allowed into the wedding party.

□ **Give us some of the oil:** an indication that good works can save the person who does them. They cannot be lent to others and after death the time for good works has ended. *Therefore repent oh my soul as you dwell on earth for dust does not give praise and among the dead no one remembers and in Hades no one give thanks (Compline agpeya prayer)*

□ **I do not know you:** For those who lived with God on earth and had a fellowship with Him, eternity is just a continuation of their life on earth. Whereas for those who did not have fellowship with God, it is not surprising that God tells them He does not know them.

□ St. Augustine teaches us that this parable does not apply to those who committed themselves to a life of celibacy only but for every one in the church.

□ **Number 5=** five senses. Therefore any one who is able to control his senses (sight, hearing, tasting, touching and smelling) carries the title "virgin".

□ **Virgins:** Virginity has also been considered a special "lamp".

□ If good works were worthy of praise, why would five of them be accepted and the other five rejected? The oil distinguishes between them. The oil is a great thing; it is the "love-the grace of the Holy Spirit. *And yet I show you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels but have no love, I have become ...*(1 Corinthians 12:31-13:1).

□ St. Augustine explains that the foolish therefore resemble those who committed themselves to the life of celibacy but did so in order to please men rather than to please God. They carry their lamps so that men would praise them but inside, they lack the oil that God sees in the heart.

□ St. Jerome cautions us that one may lose his virginity just by a thought. Therefore the evil virgins are those who are physically virgins but lack the spiritual virginity of the soul, those are the foolish who lack oil, and therefore are cast out by the groom.

## The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25: 14-30 – Parable of the Talents

For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

**25:15** And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

**25:16** Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.

**25:17** And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.

**25:18** But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

**25:19** After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

**25:20** So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'

**25:21** His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

**25:22** He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.'

**25:23** His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

**25:24** Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.'

**25:25** 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

**25:26** But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.'

**25:27** 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.'

**25:28** 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.'

**25:29** 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.'

**25:30** 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**25:31** *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

**25:32** *All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.*

**25:33** *And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.*

**25:34** *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

**25:35** *for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;*

**25:36** *'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'*

**25:37** *Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?*

**25:38** *'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?*

**25:39** *'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'*

**25:40** *And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

**25:41** *Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:*

**25:42** *for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;*

**25:43** *'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'*

**25:44** *Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'*

**25:45** *Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'*

**25:46** *And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. [NKJV]*

## **Lesson Outline**

One day, the master of some servants had to travel. He called his servants and entrusted them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one (A talent of silver equals thirty Egyptian pounds). The master wanted his servants to work and trade and because when he comes back they would "Give an account of your stewardship" (Luke 16:2).

*What are Talents?*

Talents are gifts like wisdom, thinking, discrimination, will, arts, science (knowledge), etc. It is also found in each member of our body. As for us, has the Lord given us talents? The Lord does not give us property all the time, but sometimes He gives us potentialities.

What is your talent?

The Servant can help the children to discriminate their talents and potentialities, which God gave each one of them.

We can all pray and prayer is the most important talent, as through prayer, the gates of heaven open. Prayer is the means through which we get food for our life. Samir can deliver a speech; Monica can play the piano; John is intelligent; Peter and Andrew are clever at playing basketball; all of us have the talent of reading as we joined schools and we can read.

How many talents did the first servant receive?

How many talents did the second servant receive?

How many talents did the third servant receive?

Repeat the crucial lesson to the class: *Give an account of your stewardship.*

What did the servant who took the five talents do? He worked hard and sincerely. He was honest...

The money increased. The servant who took the two talents struggled honestly and the money increased. But the servant who took one talent dug the land and hid it. He is a lazy servant.

How do you feel when you waste your time by watching TV and spending too much time on *surfing the net*?

How do you feel when you neglect your homework?

*How do you think God looks at the above and feels about it?*



## Parable of the Unjust Steward

Luke 16: 1-13 – The Parable of the Unjust Steward

**16:1** He also said to His disciples: There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods.

**16:2** So he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.'

**16:3** Then the steward said within himself, 'What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg.

**16:4** 'I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.'

**16:5** So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?'

**16:6** And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.'

**16:7** Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

**16:8** So the master commended the unjust steward because he had dealt shrewdly. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.

**16:9** And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you fail, they may receive you into an everlasting home.

**16:10** He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

**16:11** Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

**16:12** And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

**16:13** No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

### Lesson Outline

This parable is one of the most difficult to understand. The reason is that this parable seems to commend dishonesty. We shall discover that this in fact is not the case.

The *rich man* in this parable pictures God Himself. The *steward* is the one entrusted with the management of another person's property. As far as the story is concerned, any disciple of the Lord is also a steward. This particular steward

was accused of embezzling his employer's funds. He was called to *account* for his deeds, and was notified that he was being dismissed.

The Steward did some quick thinking. He realized that he must provide for his future. Yet he was too old to engage in hard physical labour, and he was too proud to *beg* (although not too proud to steal). What could he do in such a desperate situation? He hit upon a scheme by which he could win friends who could show kindness to him when he was in need. The scheme was this: He went to one of his employer's customers and asked how much he owed. When the customer said a hundred measures of oil, the steward told him to pay fifty and the account would be considered closed. The steward continued to follow the same method with his employer's other customers.

The shocking part of the story occurs when the master *commended the unjust steward* for acting *shrewdly*. Why would anyone approve of such dishonesty? The verses following show that the steward was not at all commended for his crookedness, but rather for his foresight. He looked to the future, and made provision for it. He sacrificed present gain for future reward.

In applying this parable to our own lives, we need to be very clear on a strong point, our future, and the future of our Sunday school children, is not on this earth but in heaven. Just as the steward took steps to ensure that he would have friends during his retirement, so the Christian should use his Master's goods in such a way as to insure a welcoming party when he/she gets to heaven.

The Lord said, "*The sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.*" This means that ungodly, unregenerate men show more wisdom in providing for their future in this world than true believers show in laying up treasures in heaven.

We should make friends for ourselves by means of *unrighteous manner*. That is, we should use money and other material things in such a way as to win souls for Christ and thus form friendships that will endure throughout eternity.

*Ask the class to give examples of the point made in the paragraph above; for e.g. money can be used in a good way to win souls...how???*

This then is the teaching of our Lord in this parable. By the wise investment of material possessions, we can have a part in the eternal blessing. We can make sure that when we arrive at the gates of heaven, there will be a welcoming committee of those who were saved through our sacrificial giving and prayers. These people will thank us saying; "It was you who invited us here."

## **Conclusion**

We shall stand before Him one day to give account for what we did, and He will ask us about each talent He gave us. He will say to us, "Give an account of your stewardship". If we are honest, He will say to us, "well done". *If we are not honest .....*

## All the other Parables about the Importance to be Ready

Matthew 13: 24-30 – 'Parable of the Wheat and Tares'

The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;  
**13:25** but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.

**13:26** But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared.

**13:27** So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?'

**13:28** He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'

**13:29** But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them.

**13:30** 'Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn. '

Matthew 13: 47-50 – Parable of the Dragnet

**13:47** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,

**13:48** which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.

**13:49** So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,

**13:50** and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 21: 28-31 – Parable of the Two Sons

But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.'

**21:29** He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went.

**21:30** Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go.

**21:31** Which of the two did the will of his father? They said to Him, The first. Jesus said to them, Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

Matthew 21: 33: 44 – The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers

There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.

**21:34** Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.

**21:35** And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.

**21:36** Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.

**21:37** Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

**21:38** But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.'

**21:39** So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

**21:40** Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?

**21:41** They said to Him, He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons.

**21:42** Jesus said to them, Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?

**21:43** Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.

**21:44** And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.

*The above parable also found in Mark 12:1-12, Luke 20: 9-19*

Matthew 22: 2-14 – The Parable of the Wedding Feast

The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,

**22:3** and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.

**22:4** Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding. '

**22:5** But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.

**22:6** And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.

**22:7** But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

**22:8** Then he said to his servants, `The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

**22:9** `Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'

**22:10** So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

**22:11** But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.

**22:12** So he said to him, `Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.

**22:13** Then the king said to the servants, `Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**22:14** For many are called, but few are chosen.

Matthew 24: 32-44 – The Parable of the Fig Tree

Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

**24:33** So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near--at the doors!

**24:34** Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

*The above parable also found in Mark 13:28-32, Luke 21: 29-33*

Mark 4: 26-29 – The Parable of the Growing Seed

The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, **4:27** and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.

**4:28** For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.

**4:29** But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.

Mark 13: 33-37 – The Parable of the Absent Householder

Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.

**13:34** It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.

**13:35** Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning--

**13:36** lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.

**13:37** And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch! [NKJV]

Luke 12: 35 – 48 – The Parable of the Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant

Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

**12:33** Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.

**12:34** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**12:35** Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning;

**12:36** and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.

**12:37** Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.

**12:38** And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

**12:39** But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

**12:40** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**12:41** Then Peter said to Him, Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?

**12:42** And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?

**12:43** Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

**12:44** Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.

**12:45** But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk,

**12:46** the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

**12:47** And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

**12:48** But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

Luke 13: 6 – 9 – The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

He also spoke this parable: A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.

**13:7** Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?'

**13:8** But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it.

**13:9** 'And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.'

Luke 14 – 16-24 – The Parable of the Great Supper

A certain man gave a great supper and invited many,

**14:17** and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.'

**14:18** But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.'

**14:19** And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.'

**14:20** Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'

**14:21** So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.'

**14:22** And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.'

**14:23** Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'

**14:24** 'For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.'

Luke 14: 28 – 35 – The Parables of Building A Tower and a King Making War

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it--

**14:29** lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,

**14:30** saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

**14:31** Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?



**14:32** Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.

**14:33** So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

**14:34** Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?

**14:35** It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear! [NKJV]

Luke 16: 19-26 – The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.

**16:20** But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate,

**16:21** desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

**16:22** So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.

**16:23** And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

**16:24** Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'

**16:25** But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.

**16:26** 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

Luke 19: 11-27 – The Parable of the Minas (Pounds)

He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.

**19:12** Therefore He said: A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.

**19:13** So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'

**19:14** But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'

**19:15** And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

**19:16** Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.'

**19:17** And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'

**19:18** And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.'

**19:19** Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'

**19:20** Then another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief.'

**19:21** 'For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.'

**19:22** And he said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant. You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow.'

**19:23** 'Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?'

**19:24** And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas.'

**19:25** (But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.')

**19:26** 'For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.'