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Next Weeks Lesson: “Love One Another, As I Have Loved You” ([Luke 22](#); [John 13-15](#))

Today’s Lesson: “Inherit the Kingdom Prepared for You” ([Matthew 25](#))

### 1. Jesus presents the parable of the ten virgins.

The parable of the ten virgins is based on Jewish wedding customs. In Jesus’ time, the bridegroom and his friends would escort the bride from her home to the home of the bridegroom. Along the way, the friends of the bride waited to join them. When they arrived at the bridegroom’s home, they all went inside for the wedding. These weddings usually took place in the evening, so those waiting for the bride and bridegroom carried small lamps fueled by oil.

- A. In the parable of the ten virgins, whom does the bridegroom represent? Whom do the virgins represent? What does the wedding represent? What does the oil in the lamps represent?
- B. What did five of the virgins do that was foolish? ([Matthew 25:3](#)) What were the consequences of their lack of preparation? ([Matthew 25:8–12](#)) How do we sometimes make the same error as the foolish virgins?
- C. What did five of the virgins do that was wise? ([Matthew 25:4](#)) What were the consequences of their preparation? ([Matthew 25:10](#)) What can we learn from the actions of the five wise virgins? ([D&C 45:56–57](#))
- D. Keeping in mind that the oil in the parable represents preparation for the Second Coming, what are some ways we can add “oil” to our “lamps”?

“In the parable, oil can be purchased at the market. In our lives the oil of preparedness is accumulated drop by drop in righteous living. Attendance at sacrament meetings adds oil to our lamps, drop by drop over the years. Fasting, family prayer, home teaching, control of bodily appetites, preaching the gospel, studying the scriptures—each act of dedication and obedience is a drop added to our store. Deeds of kindness, payment of offerings and tithes, chaste thoughts and actions, marriage in the covenant for eternity—these, too, contribute importantly to the oil with which we can at midnight refuel our exhausted lamps” (*Faith Precedes the Miracle* [1972], 256).

- E. What did you do this past week to add oil to your lamp? What are some things you will do this coming week to add oil to your lamp?

### 2. Jesus presents the parable of the talents. ([Matthew 25:14–30](#))

In New Testament times, a talent was a sum of money ([Bible Dictionary, “Money,” 733–34](#)).

- A. In the parable of the talents, whom does the man traveling to a far country represent? Whom do the servants represent? What do the talents represent?
- B. What did the servants who were given five talents and two talents do with the money? ([Matthew 25:16–17](#)) What reward did they both receive? ([Matthew 25:21](#),

[23](#)) What does this parable teach about the eternal reward our Heavenly Father will bless us with?

Elder James E. Faust said of those who seem to have received fewer talents: “If their talents are used to build the kingdom of God and serve others, they will fully enjoy the promises of the Savior. The great promise of the Savior is that they ‘shall receive [their] reward, even peace in this world, and eternal life in the world to come’ ([D&C 59:23](#))” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1994, 5; or [Ensign, May 1994, 6](#)).

- C. What did the servant who was given one talent do with the money? ([Matthew 25:24–25](#)) What did the master say to him? ([Matthew 25:26–30](#)) Why do we sometimes fail to develop the talents and gifts God has given us? How can we overcome obstacles to developing these gifts?

Elder Marvin J. Ashton taught that “it is our right and responsibility to accept our gifts and to share them” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1987, 23; or [Ensign, Nov. 1987, 20](#)).

- D. How can we recognize and accept the talents or gifts the Lord has entrusted to us? Why do you think it is important to share our talents or gifts? What blessings have come into your life because you have developed and shared your talents or gifts? How have you been blessed because others have shared their talents or gifts?

Every person has been given at least one gift from God ([D&C 46:11–12](#)), but some gifts are easier to recognize than others. What are some gifts that might be difficult to recognize but that can be used to serve others and glorify God?

Elder Marvin J. Ashton said: “Let me mention a few gifts that are not always evident or noteworthy but that are very important. Among these may be your gifts—gifts not so evident but nevertheless real and valuable.

“Let us review some of these less-conspicuous gifts: the gift of asking; the gift of listening; the gift of hearing and using a still, small voice; the gift of being able to weep; the gift of avoiding contention; the gift of being agreeable; the gift of avoiding vain repetition; the gift of seeking that which is righteous; the gift of not passing judgment; the gift of looking to God for guidance; the gift of being a disciple; the gift of caring for others; the gift of being able to ponder; the gift of offering prayer; the gift of bearing a mighty testimony; and the gift of receiving the Holy Ghost” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1987, 23; or [Ensign, Nov. 1987, 20](#)).

- E. Write down one or two of your talents or gifts along with at least one specific thing you will do in the next few weeks to use them in the service of others.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Jesus presents the parable of the sheep and the goats. ([Matthew 25:31–46](#))



- A. Jesus taught that at his Second Coming he will separate us as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats ([Matthew 25:31–32](#)). In the parable of the sheep and the goats, whom do the sheep represent? ([Matthew 25:33–34](#)) Whom do the goats represent? ([Matthew 25:33, 41](#))
- B. What does this parable teach that we must do to prepare for the Second Coming and the day of judgment? ([Matthew 25:35–46](#))

Elder Marion D. Hanks said: “Jesus taught his followers the parable of the sheep and the goats, representing the

judgment to come, in which he clearly identified those who will inherit ‘life eternal’ and those who will ‘go away into everlasting punishment’ ([Matthew 25:46](#)). The key difference was that those who should inherit the kingdom with him had developed the habit of helping, had experienced the joy of giving and the satisfaction of serving. They had responded to the needs of the hungry, thirsty, homeless, the naked, the sick, and those in prison. . . .

“Nothing would seem more clear than the high premium the Savior put upon selfless service to others as an indispensable element of Christian conduct and of salvation. Helping, giving, and sacrificing are, or should be, as natural as growing and breathing” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1992, 10; or [Ensign, May 1992, 9](#)).

- C. How can we bless others by our service? How has serving another person blessed you? How do you feel about those you serve? How do you feel about those who serve you? How can we become more aware of others’ needs? How can we become more diligent in serving others?
- D. What do you think the Savior meant when he said, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me”? ([Matthew 25:40](#); [Mosiah 2:17](#))