

MATTHEW 25

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS (25:1-13)

Blessed Augustine on the five wise, and five foolish, virgins:

So let us then understand, dearly beloved, that this parable relates to us all, that is, to the whole church together, not to the clergy only...nor the laity only but generally to all...It is not souls of every sort but such souls as have the catholic faith and seem to have good works in the church of God. Yet even of them it is said, 'Five are wise, and five are foolish.'

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS (25:14-30)

St. Gregory the Dialogist on the talents and love:

To the one who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough. Whoever has love receives other gifts as well. Whoever does not have love loses even the gifts he appeared to receive. Hence it is necessary, my friends, that in everything you do, you be vigilant about guarding love. True love is to love your friend in God and your enemy for the sake of God. Whoever does not have this loses every good that he possesses; he is deprived of the talent he received, and according to the Lord's sentence he is cast into eternal darkness.

THE FINAL JUDGMENT (25:31-46)

St. John Chrysostom on the importance of giving to those in need:

For even though you should meet your enemy, is not his suffering enough to overcome and subdue your resistance to being merciful? And what about his hunger, cold, chains, nakedness and sickness? What about his homelessness? Are not these sufferings sufficient to overcome even your alienation? But you did not do these things for a friend, much less a foe. You could have at once befriended and done good. Even when you see a dog hungry you feel sympathy. But when you see the Lord hungry, you ignore it. You are left without excuse.

An early commentary on Matthew on seeing Christ suffering:

Certainly they should have understood that what they fail to do to people, they fail to do to Christ. But those who hear, remain adamant; those who understand, pretend they do not understand...This applies also to bad teachers...who did not clothe the naked, either by teaching justice or by baptizing in Christ; who did not welcome strangers in the world through the word or introduce them into the house of the Church through faith; who did not heal the sick by their words; who did not lead out, through penance, those who were sitting in the prison of ungodliness.

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Quote Sources: Manlio Simonetti, editor. *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture: Matthew 1a and 1b* (IVP)
Blessed Theophylact. *The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew* (Chrysostom Press)

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