

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Today we have the second teaching in Jesus' last, great discourse in the 25th chapter of Matthew. Please read the lesson on the back of the bulletin if you have it.

In this parable, Jesus is explaining something of what the final judgement will be like. A master gave some money to three of his slaves. The first two slaves used the money to rent land, buy seed, grow and sell crops, and make a profit. By the time the master returned from his long journey, these slaves had doubled their master's money. The third slave, however, simply buried his money. He earned absolutely nothing with it. The master commended the first two slaves. He condemned the third. Thus it will be at the final judgement for all who claim to believe in Jesus.

Jesus has given all of us something to invest.

"To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given." Matthew 13:11

Jesus has given us the truth about our origin, identity, purpose, and destiny. It is incumbent upon us to apply those truths to our lives which will cause us to be wise, like the virgins in the last parable.

Last week we celebrated Veteran's Day. I know many of us shared our appreciation to veterans we know who have served in the armed forces. What happens to a soldier who deserts his post, goes AWOL, or even worse, starts working for the enemy? The consequences are dire. Neither do we want to desert a life lived according to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

No one was entrusted with more than Jesus Christ. The entire fate of mankind rested on his shoulders. Jesus did not run from the fight. He did not abandon his mission. He took the currency of our salvation and fully invested it into a life lived to serve us. Then he submitted to a suffering and death no mere human could ever endure. In his resurrection he brought eternal blessed life to us all. His one life given brought countless lives redeemed for God's glory. His blood once shed on the cross still cleanses us at every Lord's Supper.

Jesus warns and encourages us to live a life of faith. If we take the faith entrusted to us at our confirmation, lock it away, live our lives any way we please, and then go and get our certificate back out again when it's time to meet Jesus at our death, how do you think it will go? Certainly not well. Jesus warns against such hypocrisy and the judgement received by such unfaithful servants. However, if we take our knowledge of the kingdom of heaven, trust in it with all hope, and apply it to our lives by loving God and other people as ourselves, then we will automatically find that there will be an increase in what God has first given us both in our own lives and in the lives of others.

God bless and empower us to be good and faithful servants who find joy investing the secrets of the kingdom of heaven! Amen.