**Monday 2/1**

***Related Ve******rses***

**Matt. 24:45-46**

**45** Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time?

**46** Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.

**John 21:15, 17**

**15** Then when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, Yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs.

**17** He said to him the third time, Simon, son of John, do you love Me? Peter was grieved that He said to him the third time, Do you love Me? And he said to Him, Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You. Jesus said to him, Feed My sheep.

**Eph. 3:2**

**2** If indeed you have heard of the stewardship of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

**1 Peter 4:10**

**10** Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

**John 6:57, 63, 68**

**57** As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

**63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

**68** Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life,

**Acts 5:20**

**20** Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.

***Suggested Reading***

In what way should we be faithful in the service? What shall we do? First, in Matthew 24:45-51….Lord charged us, commissioned us, to minister something to His household, that is, to the believers in the church.

According to verse 45, what we minister is food….At the proper time we have to minister food, the life supply, to the Lord’s people. Do not say that others have a gift of teaching to teach you the Word of God and minister spiritual food to you but that you do not have such a gift. There is not such a thought here. All the Lord’s servants received the gift for their commission. (*CWWL, 1985*, vol. 5, “The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move,” pp. 514-515)

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Whoever serves food knows the proper time. If you are serving food every day, you have to make breakfast, lunch, and dinner. To buy a cup of coffee and a doughnut for breakfast is the lazy way. If we are like this in the spiritual realm, we will be poor slaves to minister the life supply to the master’s folks at the proper time. The proper time in the morning is breakfast. Also, good wives prepare the best sandwiches for their husbands to bring to the office for lunch at the proper time and are accustomed to preparing a big dinner for their family.

In like manner, whenever we meet together, this is one of the proper times, the appointed times, for you to minister the proper food to the Lord’s folks….If I did not labor adequately in the Word and came to speak to you, I would just be ministering to you “a cup of coffee and some doughnuts.” To cook a nourishing, good breakfast, requires your diligence. According to the context of this parable, the faithful one is the diligent one. Faithful here equals diligent….We must be diligent in seeking the Word so that we could prepare to serve good food when we come to the meeting. The eating time is the proper time, and the meeting time is the proper time….The meeting times are the proper times when we all have to minister some portion of the life supply to our folks, to our fellow believers, to our possessions.

To care for them is simply to feed them, to minister food to them. To the sinners the proper food we minister is the gospel of Christ. The nurses in the hospitals know that they must serve the patients with different meals. Different food is ministered to different patients to meet their specific needs. It is the same with us. The entire earth is a hospital, full of sickness and full of all kinds of sick people. The church in a good sense is also a hospital, full of sick people. Therefore, we have to minister different words to them at the proper time. The Lord’s possessions are always around you. The believers, the churches, and even the more all the sinners are around you. It is your duty, your obligation, to minister food to them. If they are sinners, you have to minister the gospel of grace to them as the food they need. If they are believers sick of something, then you need to minister some word from the Bible that suits their condition, either to nourish them, to heal them, to strengthen them, or to wake them up. To do this is to be a faithful and prudent slave, ministering the proper food to the Lord’s possessions, which are all kinds of persons, at the proper time. When you enter into your office, you must realize that this is one of the proper times to minister the proper food of the gospel to the unbelieving ones. When you go to school,….all the classmates around you are the Lord’s possessions delivered to you that you may take the opportunity, the proper time, to minister the gospel to them. (*CWWL, 1985*, vol. 5, “The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move,” pp. 516-517)

**Further Reading:** *HWMR The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord - Week 4, Day 1*

**Corporate Reading of *“The Mystery of Christ”* Chapter 10 – Sections:***The Riches In The Body; The Measure Of Christ*

**Tuesday 2/2**

***Related Verses***

**Matt. 24:48-50**

**48** But if that evil slave says in his heart, My master delays,

**49** And begins to beat his fellow slaves and eats and drinks with the drunken,

**50** The master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,

**2 Tim. 4:8**

**8** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.

**Eph. 3:8**

**8** To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

**Rev. 22:17, 20**

**17** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

**20** He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

**Luke 6:37**

**37** And do not judge, and you shall by no means be judged; and do not condemn, and you shall by no means be condemned; release, and you will be released;

**Eph. 4:31-32**

**31** Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamor and evil speaking be removed from you, with all malice.

**32** And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.

**Rom. 12:3**

**3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

***Suggested Reading***

When we mistreat a fellow believer by criticizing, opposing, or despising him, in the eyes of the Lord, that is to beat him. We have to say a strong word here. We can easily fall into this danger without any kind of realization. We can fall into criticizing the brothers and sisters. Sometimes we may oppose or despise some of the saints. Perhaps we would even fight against them. This is to beat the Lord’s slaves, who are our fellow slaves. (*CWWL, 1979*, vol. 2, “Basic Lessons on Service,” p. 101)

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[In Matthew 24:48 the slave said,] "My master delays." The slave believed that the Lord was coming again, but he also believed that He was delaying His coming. Anyone who does not believe that the Lord is coming quickly is an evil slave. The reason for the slave's mistake, according to what the Lord said, is in verse 48. Even though with his mouth he said that the Lord would come quickly, in his heart he still considered that the Lord would delay. This kind of person is in peril. If one does not take the attitude that the Lord will come quickly, he will not be watchful.

Many people do not want the Lord to come quickly. They are afraid that when the Lord comes, He will spoil and terminate their plans. They cannot pray John's prayer: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20). We must have an attitude and a desire for the Lord to come quickly….If you think that the Lord will delay, He will come sooner than you expect. (*CWWN*, vol. 15, p. 302)

All of us should be those who are feeding the Lord’s people at the proper time (Matt. 24:45) and using the Lord’s talents in full (25:20, 22). On the negative side, we should not be those beating our fellow slaves (24:49). You may not do your duty to perform your service, but instead you are criticizing and sometimes even strongly opposing the brothers. You are not doing the work but beating the fellow slaves. Some of the sisters are always busy on the telephone. When they hear something good about the brothers, they are not interested in letting anyone know. When they hear something bad about certain brothers, especially the elders, they become busy on the telephone. This is why many of the elders in the local churches are afraid to do anything wrong. Once they do something wrong, nearly everyone knows through the use of the telephone. These telephone calls are all beatings.

When something negative happens to any of the saints, some can never retain it. Passing on the news of this negative situation is a kind of beating. Sometimes you may have a subtle way of praying in the prayer meeting for a saint who is in a negative situation…..You pray for people, but about ten percent of your prayer is a kind of judging. This is beating. The elders in one location may criticize the elders in another location. This is also beating the fellow slaves.

You waste your time of service in beating. Instead of doing the service, you beat the brothers, the fellow slaves. Many of the brothers can testify that they never heard me beating others by criticizing or exposing them. My only burden is to release messages. Although I have no intention of exposing anyone, many are exposed by the light in the messages I release. That is not my job but the Lord’s work. We all have to stop our criticizing, judging, opposing, and murmuring as a kind of beating. We must spend our time, our energy, and our everything to do a positive service for the Lord’s interest. (*CWWL, 1985*, vol. 5, “The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move,” pp. 539-540)

**Further Reading:** *HWMR The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord - Week 4, Day 2*

## **Corporate Reading of *“The Mystery of Christ”* Chapter 10 – Sections:** *The Local Church Being The Manifestation Of The Body Of Christ On Earth; God's Will Being Expressed In The Local Church; The Local Church Executing The Authority Of The Body*

**Wednesday 1/3**

***Related Verses***

**Matt. 24:48-50**

**48** But if that evil slave says in his heart, My master delays,

**49** And begins to beat his fellow slaves and eats and drinks with the drunken,

**50** The master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,

**Eph. 5:18-19**

**18** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissoluteness, but be filled in spirit,

**19** Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and psalming with your heart to the Lord,

**2 Cor. 6:14**

**14** Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?

**1 Cor. 15:33**

**33** Do not be deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.

**2 Tim. 2:21-22**

**21** If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work.

**22** But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

***Suggested Reading***

The Lord's word in Matthew 24 is a parable. Since it is a parable, it must be interpreted. To eat and drink with the drunken is to keep company with worldly people, who are drunk with worldly things,…worldly enjoyment. This is the danger of not using our gift. Once we become a person who keeps company with worldly people, we would not be faithful to the Lord in using the gift He gives us, so we fall into danger. (*CWWL, 1979*, vol. 2, “Basic Lessons on Service,” p. 101)

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[To eat and drink with the drunken] (Matt. 24:49) is to drift away further, a further fall from beating the fellow slaves….The worldly people are drunk and even drugged with worldly things. They are stupefied with the present age. To eat and drink with them is to enjoy what they enjoy. In a good sense, when you are beating the saints, you are still interested in the church life….Because you are so “burdened for the church” and so interested in the church life, you criticize the brothers and the sisters. Once you make the decision to forget about the church, to have no interest in the church, you enter into the loving of the world, and you keep company with worldly people who are always being stupefied by this age. A saint who loves the world has no heart to talk about what elders are good or bad. He may once have been beating his fellow slaves, but now he is fully occupied with worldly enjoyment. He is now eating and drinking with the drunken. Nearly every day may be a happy day to him, and nearly every weekend a pleasant weekend, because he is enjoying the stupefying of the worldly things.

The slothful slaves who are not so faithful in the Lord’s commission have an excuse that the Lord is not coming back immediately, that He is delaying His coming (24:48). As a result, they begin to mistreat fellow believers and partake of the worldly things. Their excuse is that if the Lord would return right now, everything would be solved; they would not have the time to love the world. However, the Lord’s word in Matthew 24 tells us He would not take this kind of excuse. At His coming back He will cut off, or cut asunder, His unfaithful slaves (v. 51). To cut asunder does not mean to cut into pieces. When we were saved, we became attached to Christ, the anointed One (2 Cor. 1:21). Even if we are in a backslidden condition, the Lord will not cut us off. But if we remain unfaithful and slothful, at His coming back He will cut us off from this attachment. He will carry out a cutting asunder between us and Him. We will be cut off from His glorious presence into a place that will be the portion of the hypocrites. The portion of the unbelievers is eternal perdition, but the portion of the slothful slaves is a temporary, dispensational punishment.

Instead of making so many telephone calls, use the time to go to contact your next door neighbor, and give him a rainbow booklet that we have published. If you visited one of your neighbors once every two weeks, continuously, regularly, properly, and with a sincere burden and some prayer, do you not believe this person could be caught by the Lord? We cannot take anything as an excuse. We cannot say that many have been poisoned against us or that our particular area is a place full of Christians. We must ask ourselves how much time we have spent in visiting others with gospel tracts, with the Bible, and with some of the rainbow booklets. If you try this week after week and even day after day, you will see the result. The Bible tells us that the husbandmen, or farmers, should labor with patience, expecting to see the gathering (1 Cor. 9:10; 2 Tim. 2:6). (*CWWL, 1985*, vol. 5, “The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move,” pp. 540-543)

**Further Reading:** *HWMR The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord - Week 4, Day 3*

**Corporate Reading of *“The Mystery of Christ”* Chapter 11 – Sections:** *The Ministry In The Body; Seeing The Revelation Of The Body; The Ministry Of The Members*

**Thursday 2/4**

***Related Verses***

**Matt. 25:14-15**

**14** For the kingdom of the heavens is just like a man about to go abroad, who called his own slaves and delivered to them his possessions.

**15** To one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability. And he went abroad.

**Rom. 12:6**

**6** And having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

**1 Cor. 14:24, 26, 29-32**

**24** But if all prophesy and some unbeliever or unlearned person enters, he is convicted by all, he is examined by all;

**26** What then, brothers? Whenever you come together, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

**29** And as to prophets, two or three should speak, and the others discern.

**30** But if something is revealed to another sitting by, the first should be silent.

**31** For you can all prophesy one by one that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

**32** And the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets;

**Eph. 1:18**

**18** The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

***Suggested Reading***

In Matthew 25:14-30…*h*is possessions signifies the church (Eph. 1:18) with all the believers, who are His household (Matt. 24:45)….Talents in this parable signifies spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:4; 1 Pet. 4:10; 2 Tim. 1:6)…. The New Testament…speaks of the church of God (Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 1:2), the church of Christ (Rom. 16:16), and the church of the saints (1 Cor. 14:33). The church is the possession of all the saints, the believers.

You cannot say you are not gifted….For this reason I have always encouraged you to function….This is not my teaching; this is the Bible’s teaching (1 Cor. 14:24, 26, 29-32)….Do not just be stuck to your chair….You have to jump up to say something. For you to speak is to minister food to the Lord’s household at the proper time.

All the sinners [also] belong to the Lord; they are all the Lord’s possessions….The Lord has surely delivered to us the church with all the believers and all the sinners that we may take care of them for His sake. (*CWWL, 1985*, vol. 5, “The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move,” pp. 515-517)

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Matthew 25:14 says that [a] man delivered his possessions to his slaves. The slaves signify believers in the aspect of service (1 Cor. 7:22-23; 2 Pet. 1:1; James 1:1; Rom. 1:1)…. I believe that the possessions delivered to the slaves include the gospel, the truth, the believers, and the church….If you do not care for these things, you will not have any talents.

We should not wait in an indifferent way for the Lord to give us something. No, we must diligently seek the gospel and the truth. We should be eager to know the fall of man, redemption, regeneration, salvation, the cleansing of the blood, and the washing of the Spirit. All these are aspects of the full gospel….We need to [also know and] experience the truth concerning the church, God’s eternal purpose, and God’s economy. Eventually, these truths will become our talent. Then we shall be able to minister them to others. In this way, the Lord’s possessions become our talent. Furthermore, we need to pray, “Lord, I want to take care of the saints and bear their burdens. My heart is for them.” If we have a heart for the saints and are burdened for them, they, the Lord’s possession, will be given to us as a talent.

Do not drop any burden that the Lord has given you….The Lord has a vast work in His recovery. For this work, He needs thousands of young brothers and sisters to be raised up to bear the responsibility.

The talent is not something of your natural birth; rather, it is altogether related to your burden. If you take up a burden, you will receive a talent.

Although the talents are not our ability, but the Lord’s possession, they are delivered to us according to our ability. Our ability is constituted by God’s creation and our learning. The capacity of our ability is based upon the willingness of our heart. If we do not have any willingness in our heart, then we shall not have the capacity to receive the talent. (*Life-study of Matthew*, pp. 759, 761-762)

Moses learned to serve God according to His leading and to trust in Him (vv. 34-36; Heb. 11:28)….Although he was very capable, he did not use his natural ability. His natural ability was dealt with, so it became an ability in resurrection….If our ability is not dealt with, it is separate from God’s move. But after being dealt with by the cross, our ability becomes one with God’s move. Actually, God was wrought into Moses’ ability. His ability eventually was full of God. (*CWWL, 1979*, vol. 2, “Basic Lessons on Service,” pp. 143-144)

**Further Reading:** *HWMR The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord - Week 4, Day 4*

**Corporate Reading of *“The Mystery of Christ”* Chapter 11 – Sections:***Seeking To Know And Experience The Lord; First Life, Then Doctrines*

**Friday 2/5**

***Related Verses***

1. **Matt. 25:15-19, 29-30**
2. **15** To one he gave five talents, and to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability. And he went abroad.
3. **16**Immediately he who had received the five talents went and traded with them and gained another five.
4. **17**Similarly, he who had received the two gained another two.
5. **18**But he who had received the one went off and dug in the earth and hid his master's money.
6. **19** Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

**29**For to every one who has, more shall be given, and he shall abound; but from him who does not have, even that which he has shall be taken away from him.

**30** And cast out the useless slave into the outer darkness. In that place there will be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

1. **1 Tim. 4:14**
2. **14** Do not neglect the gift which is in you, which was given to you by means of prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.
3. **2 Tim. 1:6**
4. **6** For which cause I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
5. **2 Tim. 4:5**
6. **5** But you, be sober in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelist, fully accomplish your ministry.

***Suggested Reading***

To trade with the talents [Matt. 25:16-17] signifies using the gift the Lord has given us, and to gain other talents signifies that the gift we received from the Lord has been used to the fullest extent, without any loss or waste.

According to Matthew 24, the slave is to supply food to those in the household. This refers to the ministering of the nourishing Word with the riches of Christ as the life supply to those in the Lord’s house. Here, however, it speaks of trading with the talents to cause the talents to multiply. Therefore, the result of our service has two aspects. The first aspect is that others are fed and given rich nourishment. The second aspect is that the Lord’s possessions are multiplied. For example, the more we preach the gospel, the richer the gospel becomes. It is the same with the truths. As we minister the truths to others, the truths multiply. This is also true of the saints and the churches. Both the believers and the churches will multiply. (*Life-study of Matthew*, p. 763)

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1. The main emphasis in this parable is on the one-talented one, the one who received the smallest gift. It is very easy for the least-gifted ones to fail to make the proper use of their gift.
2. As the earth signifies the world, so to dig in the earth signifies getting into the world. Any association, any involvement with the world, even a little worldly talk, will bury the Lord’s gift to us. Hiding the Lord’s silver signifies rendering the Lord’s gift useless, letting it lie waste under the cloak of certain earthly excuses. Any excuse for not using the Lord’s gift is to hide it. This is always the danger with the one-talented ones, those who consider their gift as the smallest.
3. With the one-talented slave in this parable, there is no multiplication….Some may think that the one-talented slave did well in not losing his talent and in returning to the Lord what was His. The one-talented slave seemed to say, “Lord, here is what is Yours. You gave me one talent, and I have been faithful to keep, guard, protect, and preserve it. By Your mercy and grace, I have kept it.” But the issue of our service must be the multiplication of our talents. It is not the Lord’s will for us simply to maintain what He has given us. If you are faithful merely to keep the gospel, the truth, and the church without any multiplication, the Lord will say that you are slothful. Furthermore, He will call you an evil slave. In the eyes of the Lord, it is evil to bury the talent and not to multiply it. The Lord does not care for our argument or excuses. He cares only that the one talent is multiplied into two. This is a serious matter. Our service must issue in the feeding and satisfaction of others and in the multiplication of the talent. (*Life-study of Matthew*, pp. 763-764)
4. The slothful slaves who are not so faithful in the Lord’s commission…had an excuse [Matt. 25:24-25]….The Lord admitted that He is strict in what He demands of His slaves for His work and indicated that since the slothful slave knew this, he should have done something. The Lord admitted that in a sense He does not sow, yet He claims the reaping. He does not winnow, yet He claims of you the gathering. We may make many excuses that it is really hard to reap anything or to gather anything. We may present these excuses to the Lord at the judgment seat, putting the blame entirely upon Him….The Lord will not listen to our excuses but instead will cut us off from His presence and take away the gift He has given to us. This is not my teaching, but this is what the Lord tells us in Matthew 24 and 25. (*CWWL, 1985*, vol. 5, “The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move,” p. 542)
5. **Further Reading:** *HWMR The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord - Week 4, Day 5*

## **Corporate Reading of *“The Mystery of Christ”* Chapter 11 – Sections:** *First Corinthians 12; Mutual Influence Of The Members; In The Body, Through The Body, And For The Body*

**Saturday 2/6**

1. ***Related Verses***
2. **Matt. 25:26-27, 23**
3. **26** And his master answered and said to him, Evil and slothful slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not winnow.
4. **27** Therefore you should have deposited my money with the money changers; and when I came, I would have recovered what is mine with interest.

**23** His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

1. **Matt. 16:27**
2. **27** For the Son of Man is to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will repay each man according to his doings.
3. **Rom. 14:10**
4. **10** But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God,
5. **1 Cor. 3:13-15**
6. **13** The work of each will become manifest; for the day will declare it, because it is revealed by fire, and the fire itself will prove each one's work, of what sort it is.
7. **14** If anyone's work which he has built upon the foundation remains, he will receive a reward;
8. **15** If anyone's work is consumed, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.
9. **1 Cor. 4:5**
10. **5** So then do not judge anything before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and make manifest the counsels of the hearts, and then there will be praise to each from God.
11. **2 Cor. 5:10**
12. **10** For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done through the body according to what he has practiced, whether good or bad.

***Suggested Reading***

If you have received one talent, you need to use it. Before you come to a meeting, you need to pray, “Lord, I believe that I have a talent. I don’t want to bury my talent by getting involved with earthly things. Rather, I would like to use it to take care of others.” Show some love to those whose heart has grown cold. Go to see them or invite them to your home. As you spend time with the Lord and open to Him regarding whom you should take care of, He will burden you. As you contact others and have fellowship with them, you will spontaneously use your talent….In this way, the one talent will become two, the two talents will become four, and the five talents will become ten. The talents, God’s possessions which have been committed to us, will be multiplied. If we are all faithful to practice this, the Lord’s recovery will truly multiply.

Depositing the silver with the bankers [Matt. 25:27] signifies using the Lord’s gift to lead others to salvation and to minister His riches to them. *Interest* signifies the profitable result we gain for the Lord’s work by using His gift. (*Life-study of Matthew*, pp. 769-770)

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In a sense, we may say that the bankers are all the new ones, weak ones, young ones, and backsliding ones. We need to deposit the Lord’s possession with these bankers. The bankers are not the leading brothers, but the weaker ones, those who have problems. Suppose a certain brother is dissenting and speaks negatively about the church….How good it would be for such a dissenting brother to be contacted, not by one of the elders, but by another brother in the church who loves him and cares for him! If a dissenting brother is contacted by a number of others, he will eventually come back to the church and praise the Lord for the church.

If you use your talent in this way to take care of others, you will not only multiply the talent, but you yourself will be in the third heaven and will quickly grow and be transformed. You will be renewed in the spirit of the mind, and among us there will be a marvelous testimony of the Body to the whole universe. The universe will see that we are not a religious gathering, but a living Body. For this, we all need to use our talent, the Lord’s possession. The result will be multiplication….The more we take care of the saints and the churches, the richer we become.

Matthew 25:28 says, “Take away therefore the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents.” Taking away the talent signifies that the Lord’s gift will be taken away from slothful believers in the coming kingdom. The giving of the talent to the one with ten talents signifies that the gift of faithful believers will be increased.

To everyone who gains profit in the church age, more gift shall be given in the coming kingdom age; but from him who has not gained profit in the church age, even the gift he has shall be taken away from him in the coming kingdom age [v.29].

Verse 30 says, “And cast out the useless slave into the outer darkness; there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.” This word, the same as in 24:51, indicates that 25:14-30 is a completion to 24:45-51 concerning faithfulness for the Lord’s work.

In our service we need to be faithful…Our faithfulness in service is related to the reward. If we are…faithful,…we shall be rewarded when the Lord comes back…[which] is to participate in the authority in the coming kingdom age. (*Life-study of Matthew*, pp. 770-771, 773-774)

1. **Further Reading:** *HWMR The Christian Life, the Church Life, the Consummation of the Age, and the Coming of the Lord - Week 4, Day 6*

**Hymns, #1304**

**1**

Christ comes quickly for His Bride,

Wedding feast He will provide,

Garments bright and pure supplied—

Dress in time!

Taking Christ as life she’s dressed,

By much suffering stitched and pressed;

Righteous acts are thus possessed—

Dress in time!

Be in time! Be in time!

For the marriage feast of Jesus

Be in time!

If your soul life you deny

And the Spirit you apply,

Then you’ll fully qualify—

Be in time!

**2**

Virgins Christ comes quickly for,

Those with oil an extra store,

Not the fools who oil ignore—

Buy in time!

For the oil a price we pay,

Deal with self without delay,

Fill your vessels every day—

Buy in time!

Be in time! Be in time!

For the marriage feast of Jesus

Be in time!

If your soul life you deny

And the Spirit you apply,

Then you’ll fully qualify—

Be in time!

**3**

For His servants Christ will come

And reward each faithful one;

Slothful ones will be undone—

Serve in time!

Make your single talent count,

All self’s problems now surmount,

Serve with Christ, the living fount—

Serve in time!

Be in time! Be in time!

For the marriage feast of Jesus

Be in time!

If your soul life you deny

And the Spirit you apply,

Then you’ll fully qualify—

Be in time!

**4**

Christ comes quickly for His grain,

Ripened firstfruits to obtain;

Unripe harvest will remain—

Ripen now!

From earth’s water grain must dry,

From the world your soul deny;

To mature the self must die—

Ripen now!

Be in time! Be in time!

For the marriage feast of Jesus

Be in time!

If your soul life you deny

And the Spirit you apply,

Then you’ll fully qualify—

Be in time!

**5**

Overcomers Christ will take,

Those who all for Him forsake,

Those who of first love partake—

Win in time!

All the deadness overcome,

With the living Christ be one,

Toward the goal now swiftly run—

Win in time!

Be in time! Be in time!

For the marriage feast of Jesus

Be in time!

If your soul life you deny

And the Spirit you apply,

Then you’ll fully qualify—

Be in time!

**6**

Christ comes for His kingdom too;

Heav’nly reign we must pursue,

Let His rule our self subdue—

Yield in time!

Rebel self must be dethroned,

Lessons must not be postponed,

Quickly yield to Christ enthroned—

Yield in time!

Be in time! Be in time!

For the marriage feast of Jesus

Be in time!

If your soul life you deny

And the Spirit you apply,

Then you’ll fully qualify—

Be in time!

**Lord’s Day 1/31**

1. ***Related Verses***
2. **Matt. 24:42, 44**
3. **42** Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes.
4. **44** For this reason you also be ready, because at an hour when you do not expect it, the Son of Man is coming.
5. **James 1:12**
6. **12** Blessed is the man who endures trial, because when he has become approved by testing, he will receive the crown of life, which He promised to those who love Him.
7. **2 Tim. 4:8**
8. **8** Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.
9. **1 Pet. 5:4**
10. **4** And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
11. **Rev. 2:10**
12. **10** Do not fear the things that you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison that you may be tried, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.
13. **Rev. 3:11**
14. **11** I come quickly; hold fast what you have that no one take your crown.
15. **Rev. 19:7**
16. **7** Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
17. **Rev. 22:7, 12, 20**
18. **7** And behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this scroll.
19. **12** Behold, I come quickly, and My reward is with Me to render to each one as his work is.
20. **20** He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

**Further Reading**

1. *CWWL, 1979,* vol. 2, “Basic Lessons on Service” lessons 13, 20
2. *Life-Study of Genesis,* msgs. 83-85
3. *Life-Study of Matthew,* msgs. 65-66