

THE SIGNS OF CHRIST'S COMING, PART 10:
THE TRAGEDY OF WASTED OPPORTUNITY
(Matthew 25:14-30)

- I. The CONTEXT (Matt. 25:1a)
 - A. His RETURN to establish His kingdom will be UNEXPECTED
 - 1. SIGNS of His imminent coming will be OBVIOUS
 - 2. Still, FEW will be PREPARED
 - B. He compares it to man who entrusts MONEY to SERVANTS and expects an ACCOUNTING when he RETURNS
- II. The PARABLE (Matt. 25:1b-12)
 - A. Three slaves were APPOINTED for special STEWARDSHIP
 - 1. One was given FIVE talents, one TWO, and one ONE
 - 2. The amounts VARIED according to their ABILITIES
 - 3. The master LEFT on a JOURNEY
 - B. The stewards HANDLED the money DIFFERENTLY
 - 1. The ones with five talents and two talents DOUBLED their holdings by TRADING
 - 2. The one with one talent only BURIED the money

- C. The master RETURNED and “SETTLED ACCOUNTS” with them
 - 1. The ones who DOUBLED the money were COMMENDED
 - a. Had demonstrated “GOOD and FAITHFUL” service
 - b. Were entrusted with GREATER RESPONSIBILITY
 - c. Became PARTICIPANTS in their master’s JOY
 - 2. The one who BURIED the money was CONDEMNED
 - a. Had been WORTHLESS and FAITHLESS
 - b. Had DEPRECATED the master’s CHARACTER
 - c. Had FORFEITED his OPPORTUNITY

III. The MEANING

- A. It is a parable of when CHRIST RETURNS
- B. It distinguishes GENUINE believers from FALSE believers
 - 1. The genuine will have SERVED Christ FAITHFULLY
 - 2. The false will have DISOBEYED Christ’s INSTRUCTIONS
- C. It describes PERSONALIZED results
 - 1. Eternal REWARDS for the FAITHFUL
 - 2. Eternal PUNISHMENT for the FAITHLESS

IV. The WARNING (Matt. 25:13)

- A. They won’t KNOW the PRECISE time of Jesus’ RETURN
- B. They must live OBEDIENTLY until He COMES