

## ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE 148

### Lesson 22: [“Inherit the Kingdom Prepared for You”](#)

**Class Member Reading:** Matthew 25

**25** “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids (members of the Christian community) took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom (Jesus).<sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.<sup>3</sup> When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them;<sup>4</sup> but the wise took **flasks of oil** with their lamps (We can assume that all ten bridesmaids brought oil in their lamps, or they wouldn’t be lit at all, but the wise brought \*extra\* oil. Most of us can make good decisions in the normal day to day, but what about when life gets difficult and stays difficult? Do we have spiritual preparation and endurance?).<sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept (Even the wise became drowsy and slept—it is ok to be human).<sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’<sup>7</sup> Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps.<sup>8</sup> The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’<sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’<sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut.<sup>11</sup> Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’<sup>12</sup> But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, **I do not know you.**’<sup>13</sup> **Keep awake** therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. The oil represents the Holy Ghost (D&C 45:57), but I think it also represents gospel living in general. Just as we can’t share the benefits of a good diet or healthy living, each of us needs to gather our “oil” on our own.

<sup>14</sup> “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup> to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to **each according to his ability** (Such an encouraging detail. We are entrusted and held accountable based on what we do with the abilities and resources we have been given). Then he went away.<sup>16</sup> The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.<sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.<sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and **dug a hole in the ground and hid** his master’s money.<sup>19</sup> After

a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.<sup>20</sup> Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.'<sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'<sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.'<sup>23</sup> His master said to him, '**Well done, good and trustworthy** slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'<sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;<sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'<sup>26</sup> But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?'<sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.<sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.<sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.<sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' **We have to live with courage, putting ourselves out there and engaging with others, stretching and growing, using what we have been given to serve others.**

<sup>31</sup>"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.<sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,<sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.<sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;**<sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,<sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'<sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?'<sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?'<sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'<sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who **are members of my**

**family**, you did it to me.’ I am deeply moved by this wording, which seems so much more inclusive and intimate than “brothers”. I don’t know that there is a more profound and significant point in the entire gospel as this. Every stranger is a member of God’s family. Every human being, no matter how deplorable or unappealing, is the incarnation of God, and caring for each human being is the same as caring for God. <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ <sup>46</sup>And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” “One prepares for the Parousia by living the imperative to love one’s neighbours, especially the marginalized. By this will all be judged on the far side of history...The Son of Man does not demand supernatural feats but simple, unobtrusive charity. The former but not the latter can easily be counterfeited (24:24). Charity is accordingly the true test of faith” (OBC, 879).

#### Scripture Chain

Matthew 25:1–13; D&C 38:29–30; D&C 45:36–39; D&C 88:123–26

#### Matthew 25:1–13

(See above)

#### D&C 38:29–30

**29** Ye hear of wars in far countries, and you say that there will soon be great wars in far countries, but ye know not the hearts of men in your own land.

**30** I tell you these things because of your prayers; wherefore, treasure up wisdom in your bosoms, lest the wickedness of men reveal these things unto you by their wickedness, in a manner which shall speak in your ears with a voice louder than that which shall shake the earth; but **if ye are prepared ye shall not fear**. Great general principle applicable to a variety of situations.

**D&C 45:36–39**

**36** And when the light shall begin to break forth, it shall be with them like unto a parable which I will show you—

**37** Ye look and behold the fig trees, and ye see them with your eyes, and ye say when they begin to shoot forth, and their leaves are yet tender, that summer is now nigh at hand;

**38** Even so it shall be in that day when they shall see all these things, then shall they know that the hour is nigh.

**39** And it shall come to pass that he that feareth (the Hebrew “yarah” doesn’t mean fear as we think of it) me shall be looking forth for the great day of the Lord to come, even for the signs of the coming of the Son of Man.

**D&C 88:123–26**

**123** See that ye **love one another; cease to be covetous; learn to impart one to another as the gospel requires.**

**124** **Cease to be idle;** cease to be unclean; cease to find fault one with another; cease to sleep longer than is needful; retire to thy bed early, that ye may not be weary; arise early, that your bodies and your minds may be **invigorated.**

**125** And above all things, **clothe yourselves with the bond of charity,** as with a mantle, which is the bond of perfectness and peace.

**126** Pray always, that ye may not faint, until I come. Behold, and lo, I will come quickly, and **receive you unto myself.** Amen.

<b>Other Reading:</b>
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