3 Spiritual Expectations Jesus Has of You

**Experience God’s challenge**

**Monday**

Read Matthew 25:1-13, Matthew 5:14-16

If you intend to shine for Jesus, how are you preparing yourself to do this? **Journalize** your thoughts.

**Tuesday**

Read Matthew 25:1-13, Luke 4:18, Acts 10:38, Ephesians 5:18, Acts 4:23-31

Spend time today **opening** your heart, **making room** so the Holy Spirit can fill you and prepare you.

**Wednesday**

Read Matthew 25:14-30, 2 Timothy 1:6, Galatians 6:4-5

Without comparing yourself to anyone, **write down** the spiritual gifts, blessings and talents God has given you. How are you using these to help others?

**Thursday**

Read Matthew 25:31-46, Galatians 5:22-23

Jesus expects you to show someone the fruits of the Spirit today. **Pray** that you will be available to be used of God.

**Friday**

Read Isaiah 61

Jesus expects you to be **filled** with His Spirit, **using** your gifts for God’s glory and **showing** the fruits of the Spirit to someone in need.

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**Matthew 25 New International Version (NIV)**

**25**“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins

(pure, set apart for God) who took their lamps (their lives which are to be the light of the world) and went out to meet the bridegroom. (Jesus)

**Matthew 5:14-16 New International Version (NIV)**

**14**“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15**Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16**In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**2**Five of them were foolish and five were wise. **3**The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them (they lived their lives without having in them what it takes to shine).

As foolish as taking you car but not filling it with gas. Or going to eat at a restaurant and not taking money to pay the bill.

If you intend to drive, you fill up with gas. If you intend to eat at a restaurant, you take money. If you intend to shine for Jesus, you will fill up with the Holy Spirit.

The foolish virgins did not intend to shine for Jesus. That is really what made them foolish…it wasn’t so much their oversight but their motive.

What do you intend to do? What preparation are you making toward that end?

**4**The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

What does the oil represent? The Holy Spirit.

**Luke 4:18 New International Version (NIV)**

**18**“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

    because he has anointed me

    to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

    and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

**Acts 10:38 New International Version (NIV)**

**38**how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

**5**The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. (The tendency of the church, the tendency of the Christian)

**6**“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

**7**“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. **8**The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

**9**“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

**10**“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready (prepared) went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

**11**“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

**12**“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ **13**“Therefore keep watch (preparedness), because you do not know the day or the hour.

**What is God’s expectation of us? That we be prepared! How do we prepare ourselves? By continuously being filled with the Holy Spirit.**

**Ephesians 5:18 New International Version (NIV)**

**18**Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,

What happens when you are filled with the Holy Spirit?

**14**“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.

As you are filled with the Holy Spirit, God entrusts His gifts to you

Spiritual gifts - come alive within you as you are increasingly filled with the Holy Spirit

Spiritual gifts - Discernment, healing and miraculous powers, communicating and teaching, faith

Blessings - Spiritual and physical gifts from God.

Before Kyle was born, I didn’t care to have kids. “If I give you a gift, will you not receive it?”

Talents - gifts that you are born with (run fast, good at cooking, natural leader, organizational genius, strong memory)

**15**To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

Ability - level of reliance on God, or reliance on the Holy Spirit who is filling you. *Those who have made more room for the Holy Spirit in their life*

**16**The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. **17**So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. **18**But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

God gives you talents, gifts and blessings for a reason. He wants you to ***use them to help others!***

**2 Timothy 1:6 New International Version (NIV)**

**6**For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

If God has given you the gift of writing, then write. Intercession then intercede. If serving then serve. If faith then pray powerfully. If generosity, then give abundantly. If wisdom, the counsel. If leading, then lead.

**19**“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

What did you do with what I gave you?  God expects you to use what He has given you.

 **20**The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

Spiritual principle - when you give out what God has given to you, it somehow multiplies…it produces fruit. When you use your gift to give and help others, you will see results! Just be sure to bring the results back to the Master, for His glory.

**21**“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

**22**“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

**23**“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

**24**“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. **25**So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

What produces fear and insecurity? When you compare yourself to other people.

**Galatians 6:4 Easy-to-Read Version (ERV)**

**4**Don’t compare yourself with others.

Get alone and without thinking of anyone else take inventory of what God has gifted you with.

**26**“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? **27**Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

**28**“‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. **29**For whoever has (puts to use what they have been given) will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have (doesn’t put to use what they have been given), even what they have will be taken from them. **30**And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**What is God’s expectation of us? That we be faithful! Faithful in what way? By using your gifts, blessing and talents to help others, for the glory of God.**

**31**“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **32**All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33**He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

**34**“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. **35**For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, **36**I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

Is this the 3rd expectation of God? What drives someone to feed, to cloth, to look after someone, to visit them?

The fruits of the Spirit! That is the heart of God. God expects you to show the fruits of the Spirit.

**Galatians 5:22-23 English Standard Version (ESV)**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

**37**“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **38**When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? **39**When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

**40**“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

If you do something for my wife or for my kids, you are my friend for life. If you are nice to them, you are nice to me and I’ll never forget it. If fact, in some ways it means more that you did it for them than for me.  That is how God feels!

**41**“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. **42**For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, **43**I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

**44**“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

**45**“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

**46**“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

God’s righteousness inside of us, drives us to meet people’s needs.  His Holy Spirit gives us a heart of compassion, a tender heart to meet people’s needs

**What is God’s expectation of us? That we be available! Available in what way? To see a need and take the time, money, and emotion to meet that need for someone.**

3 spiritual expectations Jesus has of us:

1. To be continuously filled with the Holy Spirit - prepared
2. To use our spiritual gifts - faithful
3. To show the fruits of the Spirit - available