

Study Guide: "Fruit That Produces"

October 12, 2025

This guide is designed to review and deepen understanding of the key themes, biblical interpretations, and practical applications presented in the sermon "Fruit That Produces." It covers the connection between current events and biblical prophecy, the importance of self-examination and a personal relationship with Christ, and a detailed analysis of the Parable of the Talents from Matthew 25.

Short-Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 complete sentences, based entirely on the information provided in the sermon.

1. According to the speaker, what is the primary reason the religion of Islam is growing so rapidly, and how does this connect to Revelation 20:4?
2. What does the "mark of the beast" represent, and what are its practical implications for those who refuse it?
3. The speaker states that believers should not be surprised by end-times events. What reason does he give from 1 Thessalonians 5?
4. The sermon emphasizes the importance of self-examination. What two passages from Corinthians does the speaker cite to support this point?
5. Define "justification" as explained in the sermon and describe the role Christ's death plays in this process.
6. In the Parable of the Talents, what is the Greek word for "servant," and why is its specific meaning significant to the story's interpretation?
7. What was the approximate monetary value of a single "talent" in the first century, and what is its estimated equivalent value in modern terms?
8. The speaker argues that God gives talents according to ability. What potential negative outcomes does he describe for someone given too few or too many talents?
9. The servant with one talent buried it, which the speaker notes was a common practice for protecting assets. Why does the speaker characterize this servant's action not as prudence, but as being a "busy body" with no fruit?
10. What specific reward is promised to both the five-talent servant and the two-talent servant, and what does this reveal about God's judgment?

Answer Key

1. The speaker refutes the ideas that Islam is growing due to young families or boldness, stating instead that it is because of their "violent ways," specifically the beheading of Christians who refuse to denounce Christ. This directly connects to Revelation 20:4, which describes the souls of those who were beheaded for their witness to Jesus.
2. The mark of the beast is a symbol of ultimate allegiance and worship of the Antichrist and the "opposite kingdom." Those who refuse the mark will face extreme hardship, including economic exclusion, which is made more plausible by the rise of digital and one-world currencies.
3. Believers should not be surprised because Christ expects them to be well-versed in the scriptures and to know perfectly that "the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night." The speaker emphasizes that believers are not in darkness and therefore should be prepared for these events.
4. The speaker cites 1 Corinthians 11:27-28, which instructs a man to examine himself before taking the bread and cup of the Lord. He also cites 2 Corinthians 13:5, which directly commands believers to "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith."
5. Justification is the process of being made right with God, where a believer is declared righteous not by their own merit but because of the atoning work of Christ. It is a legal status granted by God that makes the believer innocent, provides forgiveness for sins, and makes the Holy Spirit available for the process of sanctification.
6. The Greek word for servant is *dulos*, which translates to "slave" or "bondservant." This is significant because it indicates a person bound by service and ownership in an unbreakable relationship, highlighting the deep trust the master placed in them as an extension of himself.
7. A single talent was a large unit of money and weight, equivalent to roughly 20 years of wages for a laborer in the first century. The speaker estimates its modern equivalent value to be about \$600,000.
8. For a person who can handle five talents but is only given one, the outcome would be boredom, which can lead to them becoming a distraction and spiraling out of control. Conversely, a person who can only handle one talent but is given five would become overwhelmed with anxiety and "lose his mind."

9. The speaker notes that digging a hole to bury the talent required effort, making the servant a "busy body" who was doing work. However, this work produced no fruit because it was disobedient and selfish; he was doing what he wanted to do rather than what the master commanded.

10. Both servants received the exact same reward: the master said, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you a ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." This shows that God rewards faithfulness on the level He has assigned, not the total amount produced.

Essay Questions

Instructions: The following questions are designed to provoke deeper reflection on the sermon's themes. Formulate a detailed response for each prompt, drawing evidence and arguments from the source material.

1. The sermon opens by connecting the contemporary growth of Islam to the persecution described in the Book of Revelation. Analyze how the speaker uses current events to argue for the imminent possibility of the rapture, tribulation, and the return of Christ.

2. Explore the concept of stewardship as presented in the sermon. Discuss what "talents" and "resources" represent in a modern Christian's life and explain the speaker's warning that "if you want to see a man's heart, give them the resources."

3. The speaker contrasts the "fruitful steward" with the "busy body." Using the Parable of the Talents as a framework, explain this distinction and discuss the criteria the sermon provides for determining if one is truly doing God's will versus simply being busy.

4. Examine the psychology of the one-talent servant as interpreted by the speaker. What role did fear, bad theology, and a distorted view of the master play in his inaction, and how does the speaker use this as a cautionary tale against waiting for the "perfect time" to do God's work?

5. Synthesize the sermon's teachings on self-assessment, righteousness, and judgment. How do the Beatitudes, the concept of justification, and the final accounting in Matthew 25 combine to form a comprehensive call to live a life that will ultimately hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant"?

Glossary of Key Terms

Beatitudes : The characteristics that Christians possess, as described at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5). The speaker specifically highlights Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness."

Dulos : The Greek word for "servant" used in Matthew 25:14, which translates more accurately to "slave" or "bondservant." It signifies a person in an unbreakable bond of service and ownership, implying a deep level of trust from the master.

Impute : A theological term meaning to charge, count, or attribute something to a person. In the sermon, it refers to God attributing Christ's righteousness to believers, giving them a covering so they may enter His kingdom.

Justification : The declaration that makes a believer innocent and righteous in God's eyes because of the atoning work of Christ, not because of the believer's own merit. It is a legal status that grants forgiveness and makes the Holy Spirit available for sanctification.

Mark of the Beast : A symbol described in the Book of Revelation representing ultimate allegiance and submission to the Antichrist. The speaker links this to the rise of digital and one-world currencies, which could facilitate the economic exclusion of those who refuse the mark.

Rapture : A prophetic event where believers will be taken up to meet Christ. The speaker suggests that current world events may indicate that the generation alive today might witness the rapture.

Sanctification : The process by which the Holy Spirit works in a believer's life after they have received imputed righteousness through justification.

Steward : A person entrusted to manage or supervise the property or affairs of another. The sermon posits that Christians are stewards of everything God has given them—including time, resources, abilities, and relationships—and must manage these things for God's glory.

Talents : In the first-century context, a large unit of weight and money, typically silver, weighing between 50-80 pounds and equivalent to about 20 years of a laborer's wages (estimated at \$600,000 today). In the parable, they represent the resources, abilities, and responsibilities God entrusts to His servants.

The Day of the Lord : A term from 1 Thessalonians 5 referring to various biblical prophetic events that will bring judgment to nations and wrath upon the earth, culminating in Christ's return.

Tribulation : A future period of intense suffering and divine judgment on the earth described in biblical prophecy. The speaker suggests current events point to this period potentially being near.