

**Leaders Notes - Bible Study in Matthew 25 14-30**  
**For Home Groups in the week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012.**

**Welcome.**

*Q: What did you last borrow from someone (and did you give it back ☺)?*

**Word.**

The last three parables that Jesus tells on earth are about two groups of people with two starkly different destinies: the wise virgins, the diligent servants, the sheep: enter into eternal life; the foolish virgins, the rebellious servants, the goats: enter into eternal darkness. That's about as stark as it gets. So you need to be prepared.

So in Matthew 25 he tells a parable about three servants and these servants represent us. And since they end up with completely different destinies we need to ask: what assumptions, what actions, what attitudes lead them there...

Please read **Matthew 25:14-30**

*Q: What would you say that most secular people in the UK think is the purpose of their life and also what they most want?*

v16-18 The two-servants immediately went to work using the gifts entrusted to them, to earn more for their Master; the other simply buried it and got on with his day to day living. Two invested their talents for the kingdom of their master, one did nothing.

*Q: What does this say about their allegiance to their master?*

*Q: What does this say about what they think the master wanted them to do with their talent?*

*Q: What does this say about relationship with their master?*

*Q: In what ways do people in our world therefore react differently to the time, talent and treasure given to them? In what ways do Christian and secular people's assumptions about what life is all about differ?*

The thing that unites the first servants is their common commitment to their mission. What unites them is not that they are both servants of the same Master – for all three servants had the same master; its not that they belong to the same household, or meet together under the same roof, or share the same friendships; What unites them is their common sense of mission.

*Q: Therefore what unites us as a Church?*

*Q: What are the dangers of uniting around our common fellowship, community, personality of the leadership, the way we worship?*

In churches up and down our country “there are those who see themselves as passengers - on a ship (to be carried along)” and “those who see themselves as crew (to man the life-boats)”. There are those who act like “investors” and those who act like “consumers”.

*Q: What are the advantages and disadvantages for the Kingdom if our maxim at Southover was “expect nothing (from each other) give everything”?*

*Q: How does this reflect Jesus' attitude to us?*

*Q: In what ways are we given different time, talent and money? Is this unfair of God?*

If we measure God's fairness in length of years, or size of salary, or level of intellect, or amount of comfort, or the number of friends and children we have - God isn't fair.

If we measure God's justice by the amount of suffering we face, the level of hardship we encounter, the number of difficulties we encounter - God isn't fair.

If we measure "life" by the sum of all the things we have here on earth - God can seem very hard and very unfair indeed.

*Q: So in what ways IS God fair in this world? and is our the offer of Grace fair?*

*Q: How does this change our attitude to God when life does not go our way?*

*Q: How is the Master fair and unfair when he gives judges his servants?*

*Q: Therefore how is God going to be fair and unfair to you and me and the people of this earth?*