

Matthew 25:1-13

Choose whom you will serve

God

or

Self

Scary Tension

This text sits in a larger context

The same context as

“My yoke is easy; my burden is light”

**The Kingdom of Heaven Will
Be Like This...**

Metaphor and NOT a Law

If you do these things this will happen

This will happen if you don't

Which are you?

Are you going to be responsible?

Are you going to be prepared?

**Moses gave us 10 commandments as
principles**

Jesus led us into a way of life

Do you follow (obey)

or

Do you not (foolishness)

**Jesus is not using scripture as principles
Rather, as a way of life!**

Are you obeying?

**Are you saying I wish I had followed their
way?**

...I wish I had prepared my lamp?

What are the consequences of not being ready?

What happens if half of the bridal party is not ready because of your foolishness?

Who's going to suffer because of your foolishness?

Who will not come to know Jesus because of what they see in your behavior and what they hear in your words?

People depend on them to have their lamp lit

Someone else pays the cost for their foolishness

**Neglect the obligation, gifts or ministry given to
them**

**Who suffers in the church when we waste our
resources on things other than for mercy?**

You are the Light of the World

**What happens when that light doesn't
shine?**

**What are the consequences when we do not
have enough oil for those lamps to be lit?**

The Kingdom of Heaven will be like this...

The passion narrative and the death of Jesus

Pushing the kingdom forward

**Keeping our lamps burning, in spite of, the
horrible things ahead**

**The next part of the gospel goes into a
very dark place**

The Light Still Shines!

Invitation – In Review

What is our reality here at St John's?

How are we being light in the world?

Resting on our Laurels

Unfaithful

**Of course, Jesus will hold us accountable
Chapter 21 – parable of the wicked tenants
What you have and have not done**

Do we really think we will not be held accountable?

HOPE

HOPE

is a choice

HOPE

is choosing where to look

HOPE

**is an attitude that
shapes behavior**

HOPE

**is a movement
approaching critical mass**

HOPE

is trusting God