

**Next Steps:** Jesus was the master at teaching spiritual truth through parables. When we read parables we need to look for the relevant details that emphasize the central point. We discover the central point of the parable by reading the immediate context that gives rise to the story and looking to see if Jesus gave any interpretation and/or application to the parable. We need to be careful not to “read” more into the parable than Jesus intended.

With these thoughts in mind, read through Matthew 25:1-13, making notes of the details you think are key to the understanding.

What is the context for this parable? (Matthew 24:1-3)

Who are the key characters in the parable?

How did these characters succeed or fail?

What is the main point of the parable?

How does this apply to your life?

What are some steps you can take to better apply this truth to your life?

**Next Week:** We will be looking at another parable where Jesus uses common experiences to teach deeper, spiritual truth. You can read this “Parable of the Talents” in Matthew 25:14-30.