

But we will pass to the twenty-fifth chapter, which commences with the word "*Then*"—at that time—the time already spoken of—the time inquired about by his disciples—the time of his coming and the end of the age—"shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins which took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took no oil in their lamps," &c.

This parable was evidently designed to show the disciples the results to them of watchfulness on the one hand, and of carelessness and indifference on the other. Those who observed his instructions and were prepared for the events would be ready to meet them, while the careless would not watch the signs as they come along, and would therefore be overtaken by the devastating scourge. He again enforces watchfulness. "Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh."

Then he continues with another parable, representing himself as a man travelling into a far country; but before leaving, he calleth his servants to him, and delivereth to them his goods, to each according to his ability; and after a time he returneth, and calleth them to an account of their stewardship, and those who made good use of his money were commended and advanced in responsibility, but those who had wasted or squandered their lord's money were cast out and reduced to want and beggary. Matt. xxv. 14, 30.

This parable was designed to impress their minds with the importance of being earnest in his cause, and to do all that he had instructed them to do,—not only to *watch*, but to *work* also.

He was about to be crucified; but a few days would elapse before he should leave them, and he would leave his cause in their hands; yet after a while he would come again, and approbate all who continued faithful, but the unfaithful, like the unwatchful disciple, would be cast out and experience darkness and fear. About forty years after these parables were spoken, Christ came in the glory of his Father, and reckoned with his servants. All who had been watchful and true to the end,—all who for forty years endured and suffered persecution, and still remained uncompromisingly his disciples, were saved from the woes and wretchedness that came upon that once proud city; but those who became