

# MATTHEW



## STUDY GUIDE

### Introduction

In this week's sermon, it was said that the Holy Spirit is the key to unlock the puzzle of the parables. And the key to unlock the puzzles of our lives as well.

- Share a time when you felt particularly aware of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life. What was that like?
- How is the Holy Spirit related to the idea of personal transformation?

### Text: Matthew 25:1-30

The two parables today were focused on faithful kingdom living. Each of the two parables communicated key ideas about how we live faithfully:

The Parable of the Bridesmaids:

- *Wise and Foolish*: We acknowledge that here are wise and foolish choices in life that lead to different outcomes. Wisdom is our guide for the things we control.
- *Active Preparation or Passive Anticipation*: Kingdom living requires active preparation. We need to organize our lives to be ready to join the work of God.
- *No one else can prepare for you*: While kingdom living must be done in community, no one else can make you ready, you must be responsive to God's active presence.

The Parable of the Bags of Gold:

- *Comparison Trap*: It is easy to fall into the trap of comparing oneself to others, which can shut down the capacity to do good with what one has.
- Fruitfulness*: Fruitfulness is the purpose of every gift from God, demonstrated through the management of all God has given us.
- *Stewardship*: Our whole lives are to be stewarded as gifts from God. Jesus asks each person to work faithfully and fruitfully with what they have.

Which of these concepts was most challenging or encouraging to you and why?

What are the ways your inner critic tries to prevent you from faithful and fruitful stewardship?

### YOUR MOVE

As we said, the promised presence of the Holy Spirit is the key to unlocking every puzzle of faithful living.

What is one life circumstance in which you must pray the prayer, "Come, Holy spirit"?

How can your church community support you in discerning the guidance of the Spirit?