Parables are simply stories that are told to show religious, moral or philosophical principles. They provide simple comparisons of things that naturally occur. The use of parables by Jesus are the keys to life, righteousness, holiness, balance and ultimately the keys to the Kingdom. The people, places, things, and situations reveal a temporal truth… but more than that they represent an eternal spiritual reality.

PARABLE	MATTHE	MARK	LUKE	John
Lamp Under a Basket	**5:14-16**	**4:21,22**	**8:16,17**	
.	**.**	**.**	**11:33-36**	
Bread of life				**6:31-38**
A Wise Man Builds on Rock	**7:24-27**	**.**	**6:47-49**	
and a Fool on Sand	**.**	**.**	**.**	
New Cloth on and Old	**9:16**	**2:21**	**5:36**	
New Wine in Old Wineskins	**9:17**	**2:22**	**5:37,38**	
The Sower	**13:3-23**	**4:2-20**	**8:4-15**	
The Tares (Weeds)	**13:24-30**	**.**	**.**	
The Mustard Seed	**13:31,32**	**4:30-32**	**13:18,19**	
The Leaven	**13:33**	**.**	**13:20,21**	
The Hidden Treasure	**13:44**	**.**	**.**	
The Pearl of Great Price	**13:45,46**	**.**	**.**	
The Dragnet	**13:47-50**	**.**	**.**	
The Good shepherd				**10:1-18**
The Householder	**13:52**	**.**	**.**	
The Lost Sheep	**18:12-14**	**.**	**15:3-7**	
The Unforgiving Servant	**18:23-35**	**.**	**.**	
The Workers in the Vineyard	**20:1-16**	**.**	**.**	
The Two Sons	**21:28-32**	**.**	**.**	
The Wicked Tenants	**21:33-45**	**12:1-12**	**20:9-19**	
The Wedding Feast	**22:2-14**	**.**	**14:16-24**	

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The Fig Tree	**24:32-44**	**13:28-32**	**21:29-33**	
The Ten Virgins	**25:1-13**	**.**	**.**	
The Talents / The Minas (Pounds)	**25:14-30**	**.**	**19:11-27**	
The Growing Seed	**.**	**4:26-29**	**.**	
The Watchful Porter	**.**	**13:33-37**	**.**	
The Creditor and Two	**.**		**7:41-43**	
The Good Samaritan	**.**		**10:30-37**	
A Friend in Need	**.**		**11:5-13**	
The Rich Fool	**.**		**12:16-21**	
The Faithful and Wise	**.**		**12:35-40**	
Faithful and Wicked Steward	**24:45-51**		**12:42-48**	
The Barren Fig Tree			**13:6-9**	
The Lowest Seat			**14:7-11**	
Building a Tower and Making War			**14:25-35**	
The Lost Coin			**15:8-10**	
The Lost Son			**15:11-32**	
The Shrewd Manager			**16:1-13**	
The Rich Man and Lazarus			**16:19-31**	
Unprofitable Servants			**17:7-10**	
The Persistent Widow			**18:1-8**	
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector			**18:9-14**	
Vine and branches				**15:1-17**

Luke 12: 35-40 "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait

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on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

1859, Clarence tucks his cleanly pressed white shirt into his pants reading for when his master shall arrive back home. He is full aware of the fact that when the master arrives he will expect that his house will have been cared for properly; or there will be sever punishment.
"You cilren stop al dat runin, and get yo sef on out here…maser be home an time now" Clarence tells the two little boys walking across the porch.
"Janee yall know dat yall gota kep dem cildren off that porch specaly wen maser is on da way home"
There is an urgency to his voice for he knows that this is an appointment that he cannot miss. Clarence begins to pace the entry way of the house, peering through the window frequently; waiting in anticipation.
The sound of horse hooves can be heard in the distance, and Clarence moves briskly to great his arriving master. He unmounts his horse and walks towards Clarence. "Good to have ya home sir." "Good to be home, is everything in order" "Yes sir, yes sir it is"
As they enter the house the Mater holds the door for the servant and then directs him to the chair situated in the foyer. The Master removes the servants shoes and washes the servants feet and then shows him to the dinning room table, and places him at the head of the table. The master moves towards the kitchen puts on an apron and moves to the preparing to serve the servant.

The story above would only happen in some paradoxical world where up was down and down was up. When we in our human experience look at the things of God, we can become confused as to what the scripture is speaking of, because it is juxtaposed to how we think In a natural world. No where in our experience do we expect that the master would serve the servant. But this what the parable that Jesus presents to us reveals. This parable is about the blessings that come out of faithfulness.

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him."

Jesus paints a picture of a disciple that is ready for service. We have to hearken back to the parable of the 10 virgins; in looking at our readiness. Keep the lamps burning, is a common theme that runs through scripture. This is commanded by Jesus when he tells to let our light so shine so that men might see. We are also instructed to not put our lamp under a basket. As the people of God we have to dutiful to keep the lamp burning. What a lamp fire emits is light, and we know from scripture that God is light. If we as the

disciples want to keep our light shining the best way is to stay in the presence of God. When Moses came into the presence of God the bible tells us that is face shone with the glory of God. The best way to keep your lamp trimmed is to keep yourself in the presence of God, in doing so your light will shine.

"It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes."

Look unto the hills for which cometh my help…John tells us to behold the lamb that takes away the sins of the world. Jesus tells us in Matthew 25 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. We are also admonished in Mark 14 to Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly [is] ready, but the flesh [is] weak. Over and over we are instructed by Jesus to be on alert… to be un-alert lead to either missing the message or falling into temptation.

"I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night."

There is an amazing blessing in vigilance. You will be blessed by your preparedness. As with the story above we find that the servant that is ready and watching for the masters return receives a reward. I am so thankful that we serve a God that does not think like I would think. We serve a God that looks pass our frail, flawed and fragile selves and blesses us for our watchfulness. Being watchful shows our faithfulness and our faithfulness begets our blessing.

"It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

One thing that we have to know about thieves, is that they look for the pattern in your movements. If you leave the everyday at the same time and drive the same path the same way everyday, they know the time and place that you are the most vulnerable. The enemy is the same way, he knows the time and place that you are the most vulnerable; in the midnight hour. Remember that the midnight house is not always at midnight. Your weakest moment will be that moment that the enemy wants to put you in a position where your head is down, and your eyes are closed, hoping that is the time when the master returns. You have to understand that no one, literally no one; not Nostradamus, not Galileo, not Daniel, not a prophet, not angles, not demons, not Satan know the time or the date. The enemies only hope is that he can distract you enough to draw you away….

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Be ready
Be vigilante
Be watchful
For your reward is the service of the King to the servant….

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