

2/21/33

We read "every word of God is pure." It is extremely important that we learn to understand the Word of God ^{correctly} ~~right~~. It is also important that we examine it not only in depth but in breadth, ^{and} whatever the Lord commands is certainly important for us. But when He repeats and stresses a command He surely wants us to realize that it is of unusually great importance. This morning I would expect to look at a number of passages so I hope that all of you have your Bibles handy. The last time I spoke in chapel I spoke about the parable of the talents, ^{was} In Matthew 25. Our interest there ~~is~~ in what each of us has been given by the Lord and the account that He is going to require from us. In the Bible there are many parables and there are also allegories. The difference between the two is perhaps that a parable takes one idea and presents it and what is said aside from the principal point is ^{incidental} ~~simply stage-managing~~. In ^{an} ~~the~~ allegory every part has a meaning. These various things told by Christ cannot be sharply divided into these two categories. There are parables that have only one idea but there are parables in which several of the elements have a definite importance. Thus in the ~~story~~ of the prodigal son the important thing is the fact that God is ready to receive us back as His own children simply on ~~the~~ the basis of faith in Christ regardless of the way we have messed up our lives. While this is the important central thought, the elder brother is also an important aspect, ^{that} in fact so important some would even call this the parable of the elder brother.

Now [the parable we looked at 3 weeks ago spoke of a man going off on a journey and of his coming back and asking for an accounting of the ^{talents} ~~accounts~~ he had left with his servants. We mentioned at that time that as far as Christ is concerned ^{that} his going off to heaven at the time of the ascension and then his return to earth which is called the coming, or parousia, or the presence of the Lord is ^① the period in which He leaves His people here to serve Him and then to give an account of what they have done but in the case of each one of us it is the period from the time when we come to Christ to the time when we either die or until He returns. Thus there is the idea that the period in which we have to show some results with our talents will come to an end. There are certain elements we find in Matthew and elsewhere which I think have a special significance in this relationship. The very chapter before the one we were speaking of--Matthew 24. I would like to glance quickly at verses 36-39.