**ADDENDUM: Similarities and differences in the**

**three parables of Matt. 25**

1. All three describe the Kingdom of God.
2. The participants in all three stories had a job they were supposed to do. #1 – Knew what they were supposed to do. #2 – Not as sure of what they were supposed to do. #3 – No direction in what they were supposed to do. All three stories required initiative from the participants.
3. All three stories have some participants that were included and others that were excluded. The primary reward is being in the presence of the main character. The primary discipline was being excluded from His presence.
4. The primary character is Groom (#1), Master (#2), and King (#3).
5. The exclusion in all three is because the participants didn’t do what they were supposed to do.
6. All three *appear* to teach that inclusion in the Kingdom of God is based on actions instead of faith.
7. All three stories had to do with knowing. For the virgins, the Groom said, “I do not know you” (v. 13). The third servant in story #2 claimed to know his master (v. 24) but did not. In the third story, neither the “sheep” nor the “goats” knew they were serving Jesus (v. 37, 44). Knowing is the key.
8. The punishment gets progressively worse with each story. #1 – Exclusion. #2 – Weeping and gnashing of teeth. #3 – Eternal punishment somewhere.
9. #1 – unprepared. #2 – unwilling. #3 – unaware.
10. #1 and #2 use numbers/percentages; #3 does not.
11. All three conclude with those being punished not those being rewarded. They are given to warn not to encourage.