

BE READY FOR THE KING'S RETURN

NOVEMBER 21, 2021

WORSHIP

Same Jesus, Reliably True, Great Are You Lord

WELCOME

Have you experienced being late for a very important appointment? What major learnings did you gain from that experience?

WORD

MATTHEW 25:1-10

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take extra oil with them; ⁴ but the prudent ones took oil in flasks with their lamps. ⁵ Now while the groom was delaying, they all became drowsy and began to sleep. ⁶ But at midnight there finally was a shout: 'Behold, the groom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷ Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ But the foolish virgins said to the prudent ones, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.' ⁹ However, the prudent ones answered, 'No, there most certainly would not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the groom came, and those who were ready went with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut."

(READ MATTHEW 25:1-13 AHEAD OF TIME)

Most of the parables talk about the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven, and to have a kingdom means there must be a king. Our King is Jesus, He is our Lord, our Savior, and our Master, and if there's one thing that King Jesus promised, it's that someday He will return. Today we will talk about how we can be ready for the King's return.

1. RETURN (MATTHEW 24:32-44)

In **Matthew 24:32**, Jesus talked about the fig tree. Jesus usually begins with the narration of something familiar and then introduces a twist or a challenge, compelling the hearers to think "How does this apply to me?" or "Who am I in this story?". Earlier in the chapter (**Matthew 24:3,6-7 & 9**), Jesus and His disciples discussed the signs of His return. Therefore, Jesus said these occurrences indicate that He is nearing His return (**v.33**). This truth should compel us to prepare and be ready for Jesus could come any time soon, but no one knows the exact time except the Father (**v.36**). By doing this, Jesus subordinated Himself to the will of the Father. A few verses down, Jesus commands us to be alert because He is sure to return, and He will come at a time when we least expect it (**vv.42,44**).

2. ROLE (MATTHEW 24:45-51)

Jesus expects faithfulness from us, and that He will reward faithfulness when He comes back. The twist comes in verses **48-51**, when Jesus suddenly talks about an evil slave who chooses to put off preparing for the master's return, believing that it wasn't going to be soon and did only what pleased him, not what would please his master. Jesus doesn't just call this slave lazy, but He calls him evil. What was the consequence for this slave? The master came at a time when this slave least expected it and judgment came upon the evil slave. Here we see the reality of fake

followers, and the consequence for these fake Christians would be eternal separation from God, which is hell.

3. RELATIONSHIP (MATTHEW 25:1-13)

The characters in the story are Jesus (bridegroom), and His supposed followers (the five virgins). In ancient Jewish weddings, the star of the show is not the bride but the bridegroom. Jesus described himself as the bridegroom in **Matthew 9:14-15**. The ancient Jewish weddings are very similar with Jesus' love story with us that He also talked about in **John 14:2-3!**

Bridegroom comes the first time.	Jesus came and paid the price for our sins.
Bridegroom goes away. (Some historical commentators say that it is the father of the bridegroom who will determine when the place is ready, and when the bridegroom should return and claim his bride.)	Jesus ascended to prepare a place for believers.
Bridegroom returns.	Jesus will return for His "bride" (the church) and the wedding feast!

In **Matthew 25:1**, the bridegroom has already returned to the

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bride's house. They just didn't know when he would emerge. Many translators say that "lamp" here does not refer to small lights, but torches that emit a generous light because most of the weddings were held at night. The virgins were waiting for the bridegroom to emerge from the bride's home, and when the bridegroom comes out, the virgins were to light the path for the wedding party to go back to the bridegroom's home. The five foolish virgins who were unprepared did not have their focus on the bridegroom, conveniently forgetting that the bridegroom may be delayed, and they might run out of oil (**v.5**) Here we see a reality, that though we see signs of Jesus' return, there seems to be a delay. This delay is intentional because Jesus loves us so much and is giving us the opportunity to come to repentance. (**2 Peter 3:9**)

It's notable that this happened at midnight (**vv.6-7;8-9**). There will be a time that it will simply be too late. We cannot go on living Christianity on the outside with no transformation on the inside. There is no salvation by association, by membership, nor by osmosis. There is only salvation by one putting his or her faith and trust on Jesus alone for salvation, for forgiveness of sin, and for eternal life. In **vv. 10-13**, we see the bridegroom himself answered the virgins that he does not know them and they found themselves eternally separated from the bridegroom.

APPLICATION:

RETURN (Be alert that Jesus is coming soon)

Prayer - Colossians 4:2 tells us to devote ourselves to prayer. Prayer is not just asking God for stuff. Prayer is communication with God and enjoying His presence.

Study and Apply His Word - The devil will try to distract us, discourage us, and even deceive us (**1 Peter 5:8**). If Satan's most potent weapon is deception, then our most potent weapon is truth (**Ephesians 6:17**).

ROLE (Be faithful in all Jesus calls you to do)

Love - John 13:34-35 Ask others around you, "Am I growing in love and am I more loving now than I was before?"

Service - 1 Peter 4:10 Every genuine believer has been given at least one spiritual gift and is meant to be used to serve one another.

Spirit-filled life - Galatians 5:22-23 To be filled and to be constantly controlled by the Holy Spirit is a daily decision that we must make.

Discipleship - Matthew 28:19-20 Unless we are pouring ourselves into discipling others, we are not fully obeying Jesus' command.

Family - Ephesians 5:22, 25; 6:1 We are to live out our God-given roles faithfully because this is how we honor our King who will soon return.

RELATIONSHIP - (Be sure you genuinely know Jesus)

2 Timothy 3:1-2,4-5 - The worst kind of deception is when we deceive ourselves. In **John 17:3**, Jesus defines eternal life as surrendering to Him as our King. Be sure you are in a genuine RELATIONSHIP with Jesus. Through His Spirit's power, faithfully live out His ROLE your life. Then you'll be ready for His RETURN.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Self-Check.

Do you have a genuine relationship with Jesus? Why do you say so?

2. Setting It Right.

Which of your God-given roles can you be more faithful in consistently fulfilling?

3. Living It Out.

How can you be more alert and ready for the return of King Jesus?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people who are hesitant to completely surrender their lives to Christ, because they are deceived that they still have time to put it off. Pray that they will have a conviction to be genuine Christians and live a life that pleases God. Share to them how they can be in a relationship with God through Jesus.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 25:13

Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.