

Living in Readiness

November 24, 2024 | *Matthew 25:1-13*



LIVING IN READINESS.

THE CALL TO PREPARE
FOR CHRIST.

Observations from Matthew 25:1-13:

What is happening in these verses?

"...keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." - Matthew 25:13

Opening Question: "What does it mean to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ—both for His first coming at Advent and His second coming in judgment?"

- **The Symbolism of the Parable:**

- **The Bridegroom:** Christ, whose coming is certain yet delayed.
 - **First Coming:** Advent Season. Prophesied, but no one knew when.
 - **Second Coming:** The Return of Christ. Prophesied, no one knows when.
- **The Virgins:** Believers and unbelievers waiting for the Bridegroom.
 - **Wise:** Prepared with oil, representing being filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - **Foolish:** Unprepared, not filled with oil / the Holy Spirit.
- **The Lamps and Oil:**
 - The **lamps** symbolize our lives (Vessels), outwardly showing faith.
 - The **oil** represents the Holy Spirit's indwelling power within.

Ontario Community Church: **Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.**

John 6:47 (ESV) "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **believes** has eternal life"

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Lessons from Matthew 25:1-13:

What can we learn (interpret) from these verses?

1. The Virgins: Believers and Unbelievers

- All are waiting, but not all are truly ready.
 - Key Verses: *Matthew 7:21-23, 2 Corinthians 13:5*

2. The Lamps and Oil: Vessels and The Holy Spirit

- We are vessels. Oil is the Holy Spirit indwelling within us
 - Key Verses: *Galatians 5:22-23, Zechariah 4:6:*

3. The Bridegroom's Delay: Waiting Upon the Lord

- The delay is not knowing the time and allows for more to come to Christ.
 - Key Verses: *2 Peter 3:9, Hebrews 10:36*

4. The Closed Door: The Finality of Judgment

- Once the Bridegroom arrives, the door is shut, just as the Lord shut the door of Noah's ark, symbolizing the end of the opportunity for salvation.
 - Key Verses: *Genesis 7:16, Revelation 3:7-8*

Application from Matthew 25:1-13

How can I apply / live out these verses?

1. Examine Your Spiritual Readiness:

- **Ask yourself:** 'Is my faith Spirit-filled, or is it only an outward appearance?'
 - Key Verses: *Romans 8:9, Psalm 139:23-24.*

2. Join in the Marriage Feast while the door is open:

- You have an opportunity to respond to the invitation. The door is open, but not forever.
 - Key Verses: *Isaiah 55:6, Luke 14:15-24*

3. Let your lamp be filled with Oil and Live prepared for Christ's Return:

- Be filled with the Holy Spirit and live a life pleasing to God.
 - Key Verses: *Colossians 1:10, Ephesians 5:18*

4. Help Others Prepare for the feast:

- Invite others to the feast by sharing the gospel & living as ambassadors of Christ.
 - Key Verses: *Matthew 28:19-20, 2 Corinthians 5:20*

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