

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Last time...Jesus issues a warning to His disciples

This time...the warning to His disciples continues

We will be in Matt 25

Since this is a continuation of Jesus' warning to His disciples, let's review quickly last week's passage

Matt 24:42-51

1. Watch
2. Be ready/prepared

Some will be watching and ready when Jesus returns and some will not.

Will: faithful and wise servant

Will not: evil servant

Acts 10:34-36, 42-45 a matter of the heart (Gen 15:6) vs nationality

2 Peter 3:1-9

- v1-2 you...**2 Peter 1:1**, believers/followers/disciples (Jews and Gentiles)
stir up...arouse, awake, wake fully...Matt 24:42
mindful...mind fixed on, remembering...of the Word of God
- v3 in the last days...Heb 1:1-2
scoffers...mockers, false teachers (and those who follow them)
walking after their own lusts...carnal vs spiritual
- v4 Where is the promise of His coming...2nd Coming of Jesus Christ
ala Gen 3:1, doubting/questioning/challenging the Word of God
- v5-7 willingly are ignorant...have chosen to be unawares...Luke 21:34
by the Word of God...Worldwide Judgment #1, by water
by the same Word...Worldwide Judgment #2, by fire
- v8-9 beloved...believers
be not ignorant...be not unaware
the Lord is not slack...the Lord does not delay...Matt 24:48
as some men...unbelievers, scoffers
count slackness...tardiness (v4)
but is longsuffering...long-spirited, patient
come to repentance...unbelievers would believe

Some will be watching and ready when Jesus returns and some will not.

Will: faithful and wise servant...believe/accept the Word of God

1 Sam 3:19

Ps 102:28 The children of Thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before Thee

Will not: evil servant...do not believe/reject/challenge the Word of God

1 Sam 2:12-17, 30, 35

1 Sam 3:1

precious = scarce

Luke 12:35-48

6 months + previously, before went to Jerusalem

The ready/prepared faithful and wise servants believe/accept the Word of God

The unprepared evil servants do not believe and challenge the Word of God

It is foolish to challenge the Word of God; the Word of God challenges us!

2 Tim 2:19 the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his.

The Ministry of Jesus Christ (1st Coming) is about to come to a violent and glorious end

- betrayal by a friend
- rejection by His people
- abandoned by His disciples/friends
- mocked, beaten, and shamed by Jews and Gentiles
- nailed to a Cross as His Father's Sin Sacrifice
 - the Sinless bearing the sins of all mankind
 - the Holy One of God being made sin
- broken fellowship with His Father
- absolutely all alone
- laid down His life...and took it up again 3 days later (Resurrection)
- return to the right hand of the Father

Therefore, given the urgency in these last days of His 1st Coming, His words are VERY personal, warning about watching and being ready for His 2nd Coming

Jesus Christ is coming

1. to the clouds as Bridegroom for His Bride...who knows when?
2. to earth as King and Judge...who knows when?

His warning, therefore, applies to both believer and unbeliever...
the faithful and wise as well as the evil

Readiness is His exhortation to both believer and unbeliever

Jesus Christ is speaking to us individually, intimately...challenging us and our faith
He is not playing around...we are not to be playing around
Do not look around, look within

Matt 25:1-13

A **parable** to emphasize His warning at the end of Ch 24...

- "like" vs exact
- to teach a "main point"
 - readiness (v10)
 - watch (v13)

How are we to interpret the "dark sayings"/parables of Jesus?

With Scripture, not leaning on our own/man's understanding/intellect
With faith, looking for the simple meaning of what Jesus is saying

Matt 25:1-13

v1 Then...kingdom of heaven...ten virgins:
Then...the 2nd Coming

likened...comparable to

ten virgins...who?

- 10...ala the Ten Commandments
 - perfect or complete
 - man's personal responsibility to submit and obey God's Word
- the whole Church, all (10) of Christianity?
2 Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as a chaste virgin* to Christ
Yet the Church is a mystery (unknown, not revealed) to His Jewish disciples at this point, so...?
- mankind, Adam's race Jesus came to save? (John 3:16-21)
- I am among the 10 as are each of you...and responsible before God

lamps...Light-bearers

John 1:4 In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.

went forth to meet...no man knowing the day or the hour of His coming

the bridegroom...Jesus Christ, the Son of man (v13)

v2-4 five...wise...five foolish:

Wise and foolish virgins, ala faithful and wise and evil servants in Ch 24

The difference between the wise and the foolish: the supply of oil

Foolish: lamps but no oil

A lamp without oil is...worthless

Foolish indeed!

Wise: lamps and a pail of oil

Oil: the Holy Spirit

Ex 30:30-32 And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that *they* may minister unto me in the priest's office. And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, This shall be an holy anointing oil unto me throughout your generations. Upon man's flesh shall it not be poured, neither shall ye make *any other* like it, after the composition of it: it *is* holy, *and* it shall be holy unto you.

1 Sam 10:1, 6-7, 9-10

1 Sam 16:6-7, 13

2 Cor 4:6-7 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure (Light, Life, Spirit of Christ) in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us

2 Tim 2:20-21 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these (profane and vain babblings, youthful lusts, foolish and unlearned questions), he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

Foolish: the Holy Spirit is not indwelling,
they are not born-again believers,
irresponsible toward God...not submitting, obeying
(even if they are in the Church)

Wise: Spirit-filled, born-again believers in right relationship with God

v5 tarried...all slumbered and slept:

Jesus Christ departed earth and returned to heaven over 1980 years ago
His disciples and the world (Rom 8:16-25) are still waiting for His return to earth

The Lord is not slack (does not delay) concerning His promises as scoffing men
count tardiness

He is longsuffering, desiring none to perish but all to come to repentance
The eternal God Who inhabits eternity is not confined by time as are we
His timing is perfect in the accomplishment of His perfect Plan of Redemption

Until the Father of the Bridegroom's perfect time, those waiting for the
Bridegroom...

- go to the land of Nod
- fall asleep

Who slumbers and sleeps?

All...10 of 10

In the parable, no one is watching!

Some are ready and some are not (oil/HS), but none are watching,
none are able to maintain their vigilant watchfulness

v6-7 midnight...a cry:

At an hour the ten virgins were not expecting, the sudden announcement that the
Bridegroom is coming!

Is this announcement the fulfillment of the 2nd sign of God's judgment,
the sudden re-birth of the nation Israel in 1948 (Is 11:10-12, Is 66:8)?

The ten virgins put their lamps in order, prepared the wicks to shine their lights...
their state-of-readiness soon becomes apparent

v8-9 the foolish said...the wise answered:

The foolish have a big problem – no oil when it is needed
So they ask the wise to give them some from their supply in the pails they brought.

“You are ready/prepared, we are not!
We need your oil for our lamps.”

The wise reply,

“You need to get your own oil.

The Bridegroom is coming, but we do not know exactly when...we need enough oil until He does come.

We were thoughtful (wise) and came prepared, you were not thoughtful (foolish) and are not prepared.

Go get your own oil.”

v10 bridegroom came...were ready went in with him...door was shut:

The unprepared foolish went into the darkness to buy/redeem/recover oil (Gen 3), but while they were searching the Bridegroom came.

The wise and ready went in to the marriage feast with the Bridegroom...
one must have oil at the Bridegroom's coming to enter into the marriage...
and the door was shut.

As in the days of Noah before 1st worldwide judgment...Gen 7:16

Rev 3:7-11 with **Rev 4:1**

Rev 4-5 in the Throne Room

Rev 6-18 is the 70th Week of Daniel for the foolish on earth
(Israel is the witness of Jesus Christ on earth and is exceedingly fruitful!)

Door not opened until Rev 19:11-16

v11-12 the other virgins...open to us...I know you not:

When the 5 foolish virgins returned...it was too late, the door was shut

“Lord, Lord, open to us!

I want to go to heaven!

I am a good person!

I've done many good things in my life!”

“I know you not.”

This is the 3rd time Jesus has spoken this hard saying

1. Matt 7:21-27 know/knew: personal, intimate relationship
wise and foolish
2. Luke 13:23-27 a warning to Jew and Christian who take the
Lord's name in vain (unbelief)
3. Now, just before going to the Cross

Some in, but not of, the world will be ready and will enter the Marriage Feast of the Lamb

Some in the world will not be ready and will not be allowed in the Marriage Feast of the Lamb

Some in the Church will be ready and some will not

One must have oil/HS/born-again at the Bridegroom's coming to enter into the marriage!

To a great extent in these last of the last days, the Church is apostate, worldly

1 Tim 4:1
2 Tim 3:1-8
2 Tim 4:1-4
Rev 3:14-17

Not believing the Word of God, doubting/questioning/challenging

- The 6 days of Creation
- The Virgin Birth
- The Bible as the inspired, inerrant, infallible Word of God;
Many pick and choose what they want to believe in the Bible, making themselves judge of the Word of God
- Accepting/approving homosexual relationships and marriage
- Israel's place in God's Plan of Redemption
Replacement Theology...rejecting the LORD's "host"
- The 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth;
The kingdom of God is on earth now in the Church, the devil is bound, and when the Church evangelizes the entire earth then Jesus will return to earth
- The gifts of the Spirit are not for today;
The gifts ceased with the apostles and are no longer in operation or available to the believer today
What do you suppose God the Holy Spirit thinks about that doctrine of men?
What part of God do you not want?

- pastors subscribing to sermon services
i.e. give sermons prepared by a service or another pastor...
story-tellers, empty suits standing in pulpits

Each of us individually need to take to heart

- Rom 2:28-29 and Rom 9:6, therefore not every proclaiming Christian is “in Christ”
- 2 Cor 13:5
 - fruitful...Soil 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 (Matt 21:33-41, John 15:1-8)
 - faithful...Church 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 (Rev 2-3)
- the personal responsibility that comes with being a follower of Jesus Christ – to be and to do
 - unconditionally surrendered to Him vs dabbling/experimenting or picking and choosing with “Church-ianity”
 - growing in our relationship with Him; time and effort, from the milk to the meat of the Word

v13 Watch:

Repeating, amplifying His warning in Matt 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21
Keep awake, be vigilant

Application

The main point of the Parable of the Ten Virgins:

- Readiness (v10)
- Watch (v13)

Rather than trying to figure out who is who, be certain of you!

Believe
Abide
Continue
Finish well
Today and every day

NOT “You do you” but “You do Jesus”
Walk in the Spirit and not in the lusts of the flesh
Walk by faith and not by sight
Be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led

Covet the best (spiritual) gifts

Believe EVERY word of God

Be busy about the Father's business of seeking and saving the lost
(next week)

Be in a constant state of readiness (requires discipline of a soldier)

2 Tim 2:19 the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his.

With His warnings, Jesus is issuing a call to

- readiness
- holiness

It is essential to respond to His call!

Believer

Are you ready?
Are you watching?

1 Peter 4:17 For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God:
and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey
not the gospel of God?

1 John 2:28-29

Anointing of the Holy Spirit (1 Sam 16:13)

Abide

Righteousness = believe (Gen 15:6, John 6:28-29)

Unbeliever

Your "light" is darkness
Come to repentance (gift of God), come to The Light!

Is 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near

Both

It is foolish to challenge the Word of God; the Word of God challenges us!
Let's not recoil at and challenge the hard sayings of Jesus, let us heed them!

Jesus Christ is speaking to us individually, intimately...challenging us and our faith
He is not playing around...we are not to be playing around
Do not look around, look within

John 1:4

In him was life; and the life was the light of men

1 John 5:11-12

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life

Wise: alive

Foolish: dead

One must have oil, must be alive in Christ, to go to heaven