
First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

Be Prepared for the Return of Jesus

Sunday, October 19, 2025
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We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps. (Proverbs 16:9, NLT)

There is no substitute for spiritual preparation. Spiritual preparation equips you for unforeseen crises or opportunities. However, if you are unprepared you will be vulnerable in life's unexpected events. (Henry Blackaby, *Experiencing God Day-by-Day*, October 11)

Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

"Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ The five who were foolish didn't take enough olive oil for their lamps, ⁴ but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. ⁵ When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ "At midnight they were roused by the shout, 'Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!'

⁷ "All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. ⁸ Then the five foolish ones asked the others, 'Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.'

⁹ "But the others replied, 'We don't have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.'

¹⁰ "But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. ¹¹ Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, 'Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!'

¹² "But he called back, 'Believe me, I don't know you!'

¹³ "So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return. (Matthew 25:1-13, NLT)

Lessons we learn from this passage:

1. The Church has known for 2000 years that Jesus will return! His _____ may be longer than

we expect, but it gives more people time to be

_____.

⁹The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.....¹⁴And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in his sight. ¹⁵And remember, our Lord's patience gives people time to be saved. (2 Peter 3:9 and 14-15, NLT)

- 2. We must always be _____ for the return of Christ, demonstrating our commitment to Him through our _____ and through our _____ to His Word.**

¹²Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

¹⁴Do everything without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. ¹⁶Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. (Philippians 2:12-16, NLT)

- 3. The foolish bridesmaids represent people whose actions do not reflect a _____ to Christ in their life, and a day will come when their eternal fate is _____ forever.**

³⁶"However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. ³⁷"When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. ³⁸In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. ³⁹People didn't realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes. (Matthew 24:36-39, NLT)