

Connection

When in your life have you felt completely unprepared for something?

Content - Parable of Ten Bridesmaids

Matthew 25:1-13 reinforces the call for readiness in the face of the uncertain time of the second coming. And it challenges us to be living a life prepared for Christ.

Understand What We Are Dealing With.

Read Acts 1:10-11 and Matthew 24:29-31. Jesus will return one day riding a white horse to defeat evil and to complete the second coming promised in scripture.

1. The second coming can be a confusing and even scary thing for many of us. How can we take comfort in these verses as we anticipate Jesus' coming?

Understanding The Point Of The Parable.

Matthew 25:1-5 speaks to the Kingdom of Heaven and how we need to be prepared for the return of the Bridegroom. With this in mind, read these verses.

2. How can you be living your life in the Word and be building up the Kingdom, rather than becoming "drowsy and falling asleep"? What things in life tend to lull you to sleep spiritually?

Read Matthew 25:6-12. The bridegroom arrived and there was panic as several bridesmaids were prepared and others were not. As such, those who were not prepared ran out to get oil, and when they returned the Bridegroom did not let them in, saying "Believe me, I don't know you!"

3. As the Bridegroom arrived at midnight, Jesus may arrive when we do not expect it. It is possible to be unprepared when He returns. Why is it that our relationship with Christ isn't as simple as "Go to a shop and buy some (oil) for yourselves"?

Understand How To Be Prepared.

2 Peter 3:3-4 tells us there will be those around us who will doubt the promise that Jesus will come again, to which Peter responds with 2 Peter 3:9-16. Read these passages.

4. What does Peter mean when he says, “No, He is being patient for your sake”? And what does this tell us our actions should be as faithful Christians?

5. To be prepared for Christ’s return we need to be growing in our knowledge of Jesus Christ. We will experience grace and peace as we grow. Read 2 Peter 1:2.

Describe a season in your life when you have experienced grace or peace as you spent time growing in your relationship with Christ.

Commitment

“In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises.” (2 Peter 1:5)

6. This week, choose one of these approaches to grow in God’s promises:

- Read 2 Peter chapter 1 each day.
- Search “God’s promises in the Bible.” Then read and meditate on one or two each day.



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

This week, **begin with prayer** for a person in your life who needs to hear and feel Jesus’ love. Begin today with this tool of how to B.L.E.S.S them.

Would you like to give any updates to the group on someone you have shared about in the past?