

MASTERCLASS #5  
**Prepare to Prepare**

*Word*

**Scripture Reference**

Matthew 25:1-13

**Discussion Questions**

1. What do you do when you are warned about something that will happen, e.g. storms, etc.?
2. Warning signs are given so that you will have ample time to prepare, like when the traffic light changes to yellow, letting you know that the light is about to turn red. Warnings are important at the time it was given, and has no correlation to when it will actually happen. The Bible is full of warnings about the imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. How then should we respond and prepare for this eventuality? Matthew 24-25 is known as the Olivet Discourse, a sermon given by Jesus at the Mount of Olives in response to His disciples' question of when He will come back to establish His Kingdom on earth. In this sermon Jesus proceeded to describe the events that precede His coming and the Great Tribulation, and the events that surround His second coming. As He does so, Jesus describes how people are to live in view of His Second Coming. It is in this context that Jesus gave the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins to describe the heart condition of those anticipating His coming.

Read Matthew 25:1-13. In this passage, the kingdom of heaven is likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. The bridegroom with his bride would take a procession to the wedding banquet and would be met with these 10 virgins. In greater context, Jesus is the groom that is coming back with His bride (the Church) to establish His millennial kingdom. There is going to be a big banquet for those who are

waiting for His coming. Why were five virgins in the parable described as foolish and five described as wise (v. 1-4)? Why would the five wise virgins bring extra oil with them? Discuss how having faith and planning for the future is not mutually exclusive, but works hand-in-hand with the will of God.

3. The bridegroom took a long time in coming, and the 10 virgins became drowsy and fell asleep (v. 5-7). Now, we need to understand that because the bridegroom is throwing the party, it is his prerogative to come when he wanted to come. At midnight, the 10 virgins woke up to the commotion of the bridegroom arriving. The five foolish virgins had run out of oil for their lamps, and they did not bring any extra (v. 8), unlike the five wise ones. Are the five who brought extra oil under any obligation to share their stash with those who did not? Are those who prepared responsible for those who do not prepare? Discuss.
4. In this parable, we can draw out three life principles on how a follower of Christ shows faith in Jesus by planning wisely for the future:
  - a. **Prepare in advance for times of need, as others are not obligated to help you, even if you ask nicely (v. 8).** What are some of the skills you need to personally learn to survive in this life? Why is spiritual preparation, especially preparing for your eternal destiny, important and wise? Would God be under any obligation, even if you ask nicely, to give you eternal life after you have died? Why?
  - b. **Preparedness is an individual responsibility; you have to do it yourself (v. 9).** The wise virgins couldn't share because if they do, their extra oil would not last during the wedding party. Discuss why individual preparedness is a wise and essential thing to do. What is the limit of how parents could prepare for their children's future and even for their spiritual walk with God? How can parents prepare their children to live out their faith? In what areas of your life should you make a stand for God while waiting for the Lord's return?

- c. **Preparedness brings reward to the ready (v. 10-12).** While the foolish virgins were on their way to buy oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, then the door was shut! When you are prepared, you get rewarded. Spiritually, only those who are ready will enter the Kingdom of God. What does it mean that the door will be closed in God's kingdom? Would those who are not ready get another chance? What would God tell them if they ask God to open the door for them?

### Walk

Be watchful and ready because no one knows when the Lord Jesus Christ is coming back. Are you wise or are you foolish? What are the likely consequences of delaying thinking about Christ and spiritual matters until later? What necessary spiritual readiness do you have to make today in order to "keep watch"?

### Worship & Prayer

*Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that my life here on earth will not last forever. The time will come that my Lord Jesus will return, and I need to be ready for it. Thank you for Your grace that allows me to be prepared and ready for His coming even now. I acknowledge that preparation for eternity is my own individual choice and decision. I can't blame anyone if I am found not ready. Thank you for the gift of eternal life as a reward to those who believed in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Thank you for the assurance that I will be eternally secured in you because I believe that Christ has paid for the penalty of my sin and I am Yours. In Jesus' name. Amen.*