

BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM IS COMING

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13

Introduction:

1. “One of the illusions of life is that the present hour is not the critical, decisive hour...” Ralph Emerson.
2. The most important activity to prepare for is eternity
3. How can we fully be prepared for eternity?
4. Jesus gives us four warnings to heed within this parable.

I. PLAN AHEAD

A. CONTRAST: WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS

1. They were invited and were present
2. They were alike in their knowledge and ignorance
3. The distinguishing difference was: five were prepared and five were not -vs. 3, 4

B. KNOW WHAT IS COMING

1. E.g. McCalls hill in Arkansas City, KS
2. The Lord will return to claim His own -1Th 4:16-18
3. Be prepared:
 - a. The Scriptures prepares us
 - b. The Bible is all we need -2Ti 3:16, 17

II. THE FAITH OF OTHERS WILL NOT SAVE US -vs 6-9

A. THE PROBLEM

1. The foolish virgin's lamps were going out
2. We often don't realize what is important until it's too late

B. THE ATTEMPTED SOLUTION

1. They tried to borrow from the prepared
2. One cannot borrow righteousness from others
3. Each must have his own righteousness before God.

III. LAST MINUTE REPENTANCE WILL FAIL

A. TIME IS OUR MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY

1. We can waste money and recover.
2. This is not true of our time. Once it is gone, it is gone forever.

B. WE MUST REDEEM THE TIME -Ep 5:16; Is 55:6

C. THE LORD IS GOING TO RETURN -1Th 5:1-4

1. He will come as a “Thief in the night”
2. His return is as certain as labor pains on a pregnant woman

D. WE MUST NOT NEGLECT OUR SALVATION -He 2:1-3

1. We must give heed to what we have heard
2. Every transgression will be punished
3. We will not be able to escape if we neglect our salvation.

IV. WE CANNOT KNOW WHEN THE LORD WILL RETURN

A. SOME CLAIM TO KNOW

1. The tabloids are full of guesses
2. Jesus said that only the Father knows the day -Mt 24:36

B. OTHERS DENY THE RETURN OF THE LORD

1. He isn't coming back -2Pe 3:3-6
2. He is coming and the earth will be destroyed -2Pe 3:10, 11

Conclusion:

1. Remember that life is not forever, but eternity is.
2. Let us not neglect our salvation and be ready.