

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

2nd Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 24

Ready for His Return

Ready for His Return

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

These are the books of the Bible we will be memorizing. New books for this month are in bold. If a student can memorize all the books up to this month’s books, you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

Objective This lesson will teach the students that the Lord is coming back and need to be ready and explain how to prepare.

Key Verses

Matthew 24:42-25:13—Main Teaching Passages

Acts 1:11

1 Thess 4:16-17

Revelation 22:20

Books to Memorize

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1&2 Peter, **1,2,&3 John, Jude, Revelation**

Hook

On your cart will be a ball. Have a student come to the front of the class and tell them that you are going to drop the ball and they will have to catch it before it hits the ground, but they have to hold their hand behind their back until the ball is dropped. Say you won’t let them know when the ball will drop. Try this two or three times, waiting different amounts of time to drop it for each student.

In this game, you always have to be ready because you don’t know when the ball will drop. As Christians, there is something we also have to be ready for: the Lord’s return.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Matthew 24-25 records Jesus' teaching on His future return to earth. In Matthew 24:42-25:13, Jesus taught His disciples how to be ready for this return. He warned them that no one knows when it will be, and told two parables to illustrate how we should prepare.

Verses 45-51 describe a master who went away and left his servant in charge of everything in his house. If the master comes back and finds the servant working hard, the servant will be blessed. But if the master discovers that the servant thought the master was no longer coming and started beating his fellow servants and doing what's wrong, there will be severe punishment.

Then in 25:1-13, He tells another parable about ten women waiting for a wedding with lamps at night. Five of them were wise and brought extra oil for their lamps, but the other five were foolish and brought none. As they waited, all ten fell asleep until they heard the announcement that the groom was coming to take them to the wedding. When they woke up, the five wise women were ready to go, but the foolish women asked to borrow some oil from them. They replied that there was not enough for all of them and sent the foolish women to the market to buy more. While they were gone, the groom came to bring them to the wedding. When the foolish women returned and found the others gone, they tried to get in to the wedding, but they were not permitted to come in.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

All throughout the New Testament, there are predictions about the Lord's return. In Acts 1:11, right after Jesus left the earth, the angels said that He would return in the same way. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 says that He will return with the sound of the trumpet and a great shout, and both dead and living believers will rise to meet him in the air. The last thing the Bible record Jesus saying is the promise of His return in Revelation 22:20. Jesus wanted to make it clear that He is coming back.

When we hear that He is coming back, the natural next question is, "When is He coming?" The disciples asked about this in Matthew 24:3 and Acts 1:6, and as Jesus explained, no one knows when. In Matthew 24:44, He promised to come at an hour no one expects. In fact, He said that not even the angels, but only the Father, knows when this will be (Matthew 24:36). Since we don't know when He's coming back, we need to be ready for His return at all times. The two parables we read today illustrate what it looks like to be ready for His return, what it means to be unprepared, and why that is so important.

LOOK (Continued)

In the first parable, the contrast is between someone doing what's right and someone doing what's wrong. Because the master could come back at any time, the servant needed to do the right thing at all times so that the master would find him being faithful, not wicked, no matter when he returned. The second parable contrasts wisdom and foolishness. The wise women knew the groom could take a while, and so they prepared themselves with extra oil. The foolish women were unprepared, and as a result they were unable to go to the feast.

So what do we need to do to be ready for the Lord's return? First of all, we need to make sure we are saved. We don't want to wait until later to make sure that we're right with God, because He might come back before we get the chance. This is why it's so important not to wait or delay in putting our faith in Christ. Second, we want to make sure that we are living lives of integrity and obedience to Him, so that He will not find you living a life of sin. Are you living a lifestyle ready for Christ's return? Finally, we want to make sure our friends and family are prepared for the Lord's return by sharing the Gospel with those we know who are unsaved. This is what Jesus told us to do before He left earth (Matthew 28:18-20).

TOOK

Give any students who have not asked Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior an opportunity to do so. Encourage the class to share the Gospel with unsaved friends and family members.

As a class, review the books of the Bible Matthew-Revelation.

Pray: Thank the Lord for the promise of His return. Ask Him to help us live lives following Him in preparation for the Lord's return. Pray for any unsaved friends and family to accept Christ before His return.

Parent Question: How can we prepare ourselves for Christ's return?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Matthew 24:45-25:13 by David Guzik

E. Parable of the two servants.

1. ([Mat 24:45-47](#)) The faithful servant.

“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.”

a. **Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing:** Jesus told us that we must carry on with diligence while the Lord is gone. We must be that **faithful and wise servant** who takes care of his master’s business while the master is away.

b. **Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods:** Jesus also promised that we will be rewarded for our diligence. The servants serve the master, but the master knows how to take care of and reward the servants.

2. ([Mat 24:48-51](#)) The evil servant.

“But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

a. **If that evil servant says in his heart, “My master is delaying his coming”:** Jesus warns us of the attitude which says, **“my master is delaying his coming.”** We must live in constant anticipation of Jesus’ return, and that means being about our business for Him *now*.

i. The most dangerous lie is not “There is no God,” not “there is no hell”; but the most dangerous lie of Satan is “there is no hurry.” It is no small thing to say “Jesus is not coming today or for several years,” because your system of prophecy demands it. We need to be ready for the *imminent return* of Jesus Christ.

b. **Begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards:** The evil servant, who was not ready for the master’s return, sinned in at least three ways.

- He was not about the business that the master left for him.
- He fought with and mistreated **his fellow servants**.
- He gave himself to the pleasures of the world instead of serving his master.

i. This emphasis on constant readiness is a challenge for the Christian today. It can be said that many Christians are not ready in the same three ways. Each reader should be greatly impressed by the urgency of Jesus’ appeal.

c. **Cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites:** The faithful and wise servant was rewarded, but so was the evil servant. He was rewarded for His wickedness, and he would have the **portion**

with the hypocrites he deserved.

i. **Cut him in two:** “The probable meaning is: will cut him in two (so to speak) with a *whip* = thrash him, the base slave, unmercifully. It is a strong word, selected to sympathy with the master’s rage.” (Bruce)

A. The parable of the ten virgins.

1. ([Mat 25:1](#)) Ten virgins go out to meet a bridegroom at a wedding.

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.”

a. **Then the kingdom of heaven:** [Matthew 24](#) ended with a parable meant to emphasize the idea of readiness for the coming of Jesus. [Matthew 25](#) begins with another parable upon the same principle.

b. **To ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom:** There were three stages to a Jewish wedding in that day. The first was *engagement* – a formal agreement made by the fathers. The second was *betrothal* – the ceremony where mutual promises are made. The third was *marriage* – approximately one year later when the bridegroom came at an unexpected time for his bride.

i. “When the bridegroom came, the bride-maids, who were attending the bride, went forth to meet the bridegroom, with lamps lighted, to conduct him and his companions into the house, and to her who was to be the bride.” (Poole)

ii. Some ask why Jesus described **ten virgins** and not another number. Reportedly, Talmudic authorities said there were usually **ten** lamps in a bridal procession. It was a common size of a wedding party.

iii. “The point is not these girls’ virginity, which is assumed, but simply that they are ten (a favorite round number...) maidens invited to the wedding.” (Carson)

c. **Went to meet the bridegroom:** In this parable, the first two stages have already taken place. Now the wedding party (**the ten virgins**) waits for the coming of the **bridegroom** for the bride.

i. “To see the bridegroom as Jesus himself seems warranted in light of [Matthew 9:15](#). This would be a bold figure for Him to use, as the Old Testament frequently describes *God* (not the Messiah) as the bridegroom, and Israel as the bride ([Isaiah 54:4-5](#); [62:5](#); [Jeremiah 2:2](#); [Hosea 1-3](#), etc.).” (France)

2. ([Mat 25:2-13](#)) The young women caught unprepared are denied entry.

“Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”

a. **Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish:** Some in the wedding party were **wise** and prepared for the coming of the bridegroom. Some in the wedding party were **foolish** and unprepared.

i. “Foolish, wise, not bad and good, but prudent and imprudent, thoughtless and thoughtful.” (Bruce)

b. **While the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept:** All ten of the maidens slept, because the bridegroom was **delayed**. In this parable both the wise and foolish maidens slept, but the wise ones were prepared to act immediately when they were unexpectedly awakened. The foolish maidens were not prepared.

i. “They are waiting to escort the bridegroom in festal procession, probably in the last stage of the ceremonies as he brings his bride home for the wedding feast.” (France)

ii. **Slumbered and slept:** “ ‘Nodded off and were sound asleep’ would get the sense of the Greek tenses.” (France)

c. **Took their lamps and took no oil with them:** The five foolish virgins *appeared* to be ready for the bridegroom, because they had their lamps in hand. But they really were not ready, because they **took no oil with them**.

i. “It is apparently a torchlight procession, the *lamps* probably being ‘torches’ (of oil-soaked rags wrapped on a stick) rather than standing lamps, which are described by a different word in [Matthew 5:15](#) and [6:22](#); the word used here regularly means ‘torch’.” (France)

ii. “Their *torches* consisting of a wooden staff held in the hand, with a dish at the top, in which was a piece of cloth or rope dipped in oil or pitch.” (Bruce)

iii. **Oil in their vessels:** The wise maidens had an *extra supply* of oil.

d. **At midnight a cry was heard: “Behold, the bridegroom is coming” ...all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps:** At an unexpected hour the bridegroom came for the wedding. The wedding party (**all those virgins**) immediately began to prepare their lamps for lighting.

i. “*Trimmed their lamps* is literally ‘put their torches in order’.” (France)

ii. “It is a warning addressed specifically to those inside the professing church who are not to assume that their future is unconditionally assured; all ten are expecting to be at the feast, and until the moment comes there is no apparent difference between them – it is the crisis which will divide the ready from the unready.” (France)

e. **Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out:** The **foolish** virgins were unprepared because they lacked oil for their lamps. In many Biblical passages **oil**, is an emblem of the Holy Spirit (such as [Zechariah 4:1-7](#)). Without **oil** the wedding party was not ready for the bridegroom. Without the Holy Spirit, no one is ready for the return of Jesus.

i. Olive oil is a good representation of the Holy Spirit for many reasons.

• Oil *lubricates* when used for that purpose – there is little friction and wear among those who are lubricated by the Spirit of God.

• Oil *heals* and was used as a medicinal treatment in Biblical times ([Luke 10:34](#)) – the Spirit of God brings healing and restoration.

• Oil *lights* when it is burned in a lamp – where the Spirit of God is, there is light.

• Oil *warms* when it is used as fuel for a flame – where the Spirit of God is, there is warmth and comfort.

• Oil *invigorates* when used to massage – the Holy Spirit invigorates us for His service.

- Oil *adorns* when applied as a perfume – the Holy Spirit adorns us and makes us more pleasant to be around.
- Oil *polishes* when used to shine metal – the Holy Spirit wipes away our grime and smoothes out our rough edges.

ii. No one can be a true Christian without the indwelling Holy Spirit, as it says in [Romans 8:9](#): *Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His*. In this parable Jesus probably did not intend a separation between “Spirit-filled” and “Non-Spirit-filled” Christians; the distinction is likely between true Christians and false believers.

iii. Nevertheless, a key to Christian readiness is to be constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit ([Ephesians 5:18](#)). Much of the weakness, defeat and lethargy in our spiritual lives can be explained if we are not constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit.

f. **The door was shut...** “**Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you**”: The penalty was severe for the foolish maidens. They were not allowed to come to the wedding, and the **door was shut** against them in the strongest terms.

i. “The girls’ appeal and the bridegroom’s response recall the chilling words of [Matthew 7:22-23](#); here, as there, *I do not know you* is a decisive formula of rejection, rather than a mere statement of fact.” (France)

ii. “When that door is once shut, it will never be opened. There are some who dote and dream about an opening of that door, after death, for those who have died impenitent; but there is nothing in the Scriptures to warrant such an expectation. Any ‘larger hope’ than that revealed in the Word of God is a delusion and a snare.” (Spurgeon)

g. **Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming**: The point of this parable is simple – *be ready*. The price for failing to be ready is too high.