

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 50

Surely I am Coming Quickly

Surely I am Coming Quickly

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.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week 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 about Christ’s promise to return and the need for us to be ready.

Key Verses

Matthew 24:42-44; 25:1-13—Main Teaching Passage

Revelation 22:20

Matthew 24:45-51

Memory Verse - Revelation 22:20

“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”

Hook

Review last week’s memory verse, 1 Corinthians 1:9.

Play a game of Red Light, Green Light with the kids. In this game, the kids line up on one side of the room and you line up on the other. When you say, “green light,” they can walk toward you, but when you say “red light,” they have to freeze. If they don’t freeze, they have to start over. The first person to touch you wins (play with a few kids at a time if there isn’t enough room).

In this game, the kids always need to be ready to stop because they don’t know when you will say, “red light.” Today, we will learn about something else we must always be ready for.

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

At the end of Revelation, the final book of the Bible, Jesus said, “Surely I am coming quickly” (Revelation 22:20). Throughout the New Testament, this message is repeated: Jesus is one day going to return to earth. In Matthew 24:42-44, He warned His disciples to watch for Him and be ready, because they didn’t know when His return would happen. He compared His return to a thief in the night: just as a thief comes into a house without warning, so He would come at an hour they didn’t expect. Because of this, they always needed to be ready.

To illustrate the need to be ready, in Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus told a parable about ten women waiting at night for the groom to take them to a wedding. Because it was night, they all brought lamps, but only five were wise enough to bring extra oil for their lamps. As they waited for the groom, their lamps all ran out of oil, and the five foolish women who forgot to bring extra asked the other five women if they could use some oil, but the wise women said no, since there wouldn’t be enough for everyone. When the foolish women went to buy extra oil, the groom arrived and took the wise women with him to the wedding, and the door was shut behind them. Later, the foolish women tried to get into the wedding, but they were told to go away. They could not go to the wedding because they were not ready. Jesus said that we also need to be ready for His return, because we do not know when He is coming back.

LOOK

This year, we have studied through the New Testament. We learned about Jesus’ birth, life, death, and resurrection in the Gospels, and about what His followers did after in the book of Acts. However, the story of Jesus doesn’t end there, nor has it ended yet. The Bible tells us that one day, Jesus will return to earth as King. This hasn’t happened yet, and could happen at any time. Matthew 24:36 says that no one except God knows when this will take place. Because this could happen at any time, we need to be ready at all times.

In the parable today, there were two groups of women. Neither group knew when the groom was coming, but one group was wise and came prepared with extra oil so they could be ready at any time. As a result, they were ready when the groom came and were able to go to the wedding. The other women were not ready for the groom to come, and so they were left out of the wedding. The same way, we don’t know when Jesus will come back, so we always need to be ready for His return. For

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

LOOK (Continued)

those who are ready, there will be great reward, but for those who are unprepared, there will be consequences.

In Matthew 24:45-51, Jesus explained what it means to be ready for His return. He described a master who has left his house and entrusted his servant to take care of it. If, when the master comes back, he finds his servant doing what he was told and taking care of the house, that servant will receive great reward. But if the servant disobeys his master and starts beating up the other servants and not taking care of the house, the master will punish him when he returns.

Earlier this year we learned that after His resurrection, Jesus left earth and returned to heaven. Just like the master of the servants, He has left us with several responsibilities to be ready for His return. First and most importantly, to be ready for His return we need to repent of our sins and ask Jesus to forgive us and be our Lord and Savior. He also asked us to go and tell other people about Him and to obey His commandments. If when the Lord returns, He finds you faithfully living as He has asked you to, there will be great reward, but if not, there will be consequences.

We don't know when Jesus is coming back. It could be in a year, or in a thousand years. It could even be today! Since we don't know when He is coming back, we can't wait to get ready for His return. We must be ready today, faithfully obeying Him and telling others about Him so that they can be ready for His return too!

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?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Revelation 22:20

Ask the class what Jesus taught about His return. What does it mean to be ready for His return?

Pray: Thank Jesus for His promise to come back. Ask Him to help us to be ready for His return.

Parent question: How can we be ready for Christ's return?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Matthew 24:42-44; 25:1-13 by David Guzik

3. ([Mat 24:42-44](#)) Jesus cautions His disciples to be ready for an unexpected coming.

“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

b. **Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming:** Since the day and hour of this coming are unknowable, Jesus’ followers must be on constant guard for His coming.

i. Here again is the Second Coming dilemma.

- Is it at an unexpected hour or is it positively predicted?
- Is it business as usual or worldwide cataclysm?
- Is it meeting Him in the air ([1 Thessalonians 4:16-17](#)) or is He coming with the saints ([Zechariah 14:5](#))?

ii. William Barclay describes one aspect of the difficulty here: “It is in two sections and they seem to contradict each other. The first ([verses 32-35](#)) seem to indicate that, as a man can tell by the signs of nature when summer is on the way, so he can tell by the signs of the world when the Second Coming is on the way... The second section ([verses 36-41](#)) says quite definitely that no one knows the time of the Second Coming, not the angels, not even Jesus himself, but only God; and that it will come upon men with the suddenness of a rain-storm out of a blue sky.”

iii. The dilemma is resolved by seeing that there are actually *two* second comings. One is in the air, for the church – commonly known as the *rapture*. The other is to the world, coming with the church, commonly known as the Second Coming of Jesus. The “contradictions” in [Matthew 24](#) (and much of the rest of prophecy) are often solved by seeing there are really references to “two” returns of Jesus.

c. **Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect:** We must not escape the emphasis. We must be ready, because His coming for us is without warning. Jesus follows with a few parables to drive home this point.

i. “Suetonius tells us that it was a piece of Julius Caesar’s policy never to fore-acquaint his soldiers of any set time of removal or onset, that he might ever have them in readiness to draw forth whithersoever he would.” (Trapp)

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 readi-

ness 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 un-ready." (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.