



“Looking From Eternity” The Ten Virgins - Matthew 25:1-13

Getting Started . . .

Recall and discuss a time when being late for something cost you.

For Discussion . . .

1) In Jewish wedding tradition, the delay while the bridegroom was out was an expected part of the ceremonies. Why did the ten act as though the delay was a surprise? Why did they not use the time to prepare?

2) Why were those who refused to share not criticized? Are there some things about faith that cannot be shared?

3) What does Jesus say it means to prepare for his second coming?
(*Read Matthew 24:36-51 for ideas*)

4) What are some examples of “not being ready?”

5) Why do we act as though the delay in Jesus’ return is a surprise? How do you struggle with this delay?

6) How has modern culture inhibited our ability to wait patiently?

7) What does it look like to have your lamp prepared and ready?

8) What have you learned from the Weekend of Service and this series?

9) Where do you go from here? Where does your small group and the church go from here?

Passage Summary . . .

At the heart of the Christian faith is the expectation that one day God will set things right—that the kingdom will come and that Jesus will be vindicated and his dream put into effect. Living as disciples means being ready for God’s reign. Readiness is about your attitude, commitment, and lifestyle. This is the message of the Ten Virgins. (Snodgrass 2008, 518)

Some complain that the wise virgins were simply selfish because they didn’t share. This completely misses the point of the parable; which is to urge readiness. Jesus’

story highlights the difference between being wise vs. being foolish, being ready vs. getting caught unprepared.

Here's the deal: You cannot do someone else's Bible reading for them. You cannot do someone else's praying for them. You cannot passionately pursue Christ for someone else. You cannot share your faith in Christ for someone else. You can't.

Like the bridegroom, God may delay his coming longer than people expect. (2) Like the wise bridesmaids, his follower must be prepared for such a delay—discipleship may be more arduous than the novice suspects. (3) Like the foolish bridesmaids, those who do not prepare adequately may discover a point beyond which there is no return—when the end comes it will be too late to undo the damage of neglect. (Blomberg 1990, 195)

Get ready. Be confident. Pursue Christ. And do it, today! That's why we did Weekend of Service. And Lord willing, there will be more to come!

Weekend of Service discussion . . .

- 1) Talk about your Weekend of Service experiences.
- 2) What were the highs and lows of the weekend for you?
- 3) How did you see God move?
- 4) Are there any needs in our community that your eyes are now opened to that you did not know about before?

Notes:

Prayer . . .

Thank God for the work He has done the past few months and over the Weekend of Service. Close this time by asking Him to show you and your small group ways that you can continue to live your "life on loan" in a way that honors Him.