

PSALMS PROVERBS & PARABLES



Be Ready!

Matthew 25.1-13

Main Idea

Christ's return may be delayed, but His coming will come at an unexpected time...make certain you are ready for His return.

Overview

I. Christ's return may appear Delayed (Vs. 5):

- Matthew 24.48, Matthew 25.19
 - Peter responds to those who accuse that Jesus' return is not going to happen: 2 Pet. 3.4, 8-9

II. Christ returns to a Feast (Vs. 10)

- Jesus clearly has Himself in view as the "bridegroom" (Matthew 9.15)
- Revelation 21.2-3 indicates this "feast" will be great

III. Christ will return at an unexpected time no one knows (Vs. 6)

- Matthew 24.36-50

IV. There will be two groups of people at His coming: Wise & Foolish: (Vs. 2)

- Foolish have lamps and appear ready, however when Christ returns they are not prepared to shine
 - And at that point it will be too late: (Vs. 6-10)
- They will be left outside the Feast where the bridegroom will say I never knew you (Vs 10-11)
- Wise are prepared to shine on the Bridegroom (Vs. 4,-7, 10)

V. Therefore: Those in Christ should stay awake and be ready at all times (Vs. 13)

Questions

Discussion Starter: *What have been some bad motivators towards being prepared for Christ's imminent return? What is Jesus' approach?*

1. Read Matthew 24.1-3, 36-50. Have you ever doubted Jesus' return because it seems like it has been so long? How does Matthew 24-25, 2 Peter 3.4-9 address that question?
2. Couple Jesus' "delay" with the unexpected nature of his return. Why does it appear Jesus is telling these two sides to His return?
3. What is the Bridegroom returning to? How does this square with Revelation 19.6-7, 21.2-3? Do you look forward to heaven? If not, why? If so...for what reasons? And are those reasons in keeping with the Bible's anticipation?

4. What is the difference between the wise and the foolish?
5. How can you evaluate that you are “ready” “awake” “alert”? How can you help others do the same?
6. Why it important that we realize that the Lord will say to some, “Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’
How can this inform your evangelism?

Accountability Question: Take the time to work through not just what you believe but what/who you are trusting in and whether it has a life that is connected to that trust.