



Be Ready for the King's Return

Most of the parables talk about the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven. To have a kingdom means there must be a king. Our King is Jesus, He is our Lord, Savior, and Master. He promised that someday He will return.

Return (MATTHEW 24:32-44)

In Matthew 24:32, Jesus talks about the fig tree. Earlier in that chapter (Matthew 24:3,6-7 & 9), Jesus and His disciples discussed the signs of His return. These occurrences indicate that He is nearing His return (v.33). This truth should compel us to prepare and be ready for Jesus could come any time soon. No one knows the exact time except the Father (v.36). By doing this, Jesus subordinated Himself to the will of the Father. A few verses down, Jesus commands us to be alert because He is sure to return, and He will come at a time when we least expect it (vv.42,44).

Role (MATTHEW 24:45-51)

Jesus expects faithfulness from us, and He will reward faithfulness when He comes back. The twist comes in verses 48-51, when Jesus suddenly talks about an evil slave who chooses to put off preparing for the master's return, believing that it wasn't going to be soon. He did only what pleased him and not what would please his master. Jesus doesn't just call this slave "lazy", but He calls him "evil". What was the consequence for this slave? The master came at a time when this slave least expected it and judgment came upon the evil slave. Here we see the reality of fake followers, and the consequence for these fake Christians would be eternal separation from God, which is hell.

Relationship (MATTHEW 25:1-13)

The characters in the story are Jesus (bridegroom) and His supposed followers (the virgins). The role of the virgins is to light the path for the bridegroom when he arrives. Five of the ten virgins were foolish and unprepared, conveniently forgetting that the bridegroom maybe delayed. Unlike the other five virgins, who were diligent and prudent, the foolish virgins did not focus on the bridegroom. They conveniently forgotten that the bridegroom was delayed, and that they might run out of oil (v.5). Here we see a reality, that though we see signs of Jesus' return, there seems to be a delay. This delay is intentional because Jesus loves us so much and is giving us the opportunity to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

this week's memory verse

and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

ACTS 16:30-31

UNCOVER

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However, there will be a time that it will simply be too late. We cannot go on living Christianity on the outside with no transformation on the inside. There is only salvation when one puts his or her faith on Jesus alone for forgiveness of sin and for eternal life. In vv. 10-13, we see the bridegroom himself answering the virgins that he does not know them, and they found themselves eternally separated from the bridegroom when the door was shut.

How can we be ready for the return of King Jesus?

Be alert that Jesus is coming soon.

- **Devote ourselves to prayer (Colossians 4:2).** Prayer is not just asking God for things. Prayer is communication with God and enjoying His presence.
- **Study and Apply His Word.** If Satan's most potent weapon is deception, then our most potent weapon is truth (Ephesians 6:17).

Be faithful in all Jesus calls us to do.

- **Love (John 13:34-35).** Ask others, "Am I growing in love? Am I more loving now than before?"
- **Service (1 Peter 4:10).** Use our spiritual gifts to serve others.
- **Spirit-filled life (Galatians 5:22-23).** Allow the Holy Spirit to fill and control us daily.
- **Discipleship (Matthew 28:19-20).** Obey Jesus' command to spread the Good News and disciple others.
- **Family (Ephesians 5:22, 25; 6:1).** Live out our God-given roles faithfully.

Be sure you genuinely know Jesus.

Let us be like the five wise virgins who faithfully waited and prepared for the bridegroom's arrival. Be sure you are in a genuine RELATIONSHIP with Jesus. Through His Spirit's power, faithfully live out His ROLE in your life. Then, you'll be ready for His RETURN!

discussion questions

Do you have a genuine relationship with Jesus? Why do you say so?

Which of your God-given roles can you be more faithful in consistently fulfilling?

How can you be more alert and ready for the return of King Jesus?

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