



URGENT TIMES

URGENT TIMES:

- Dreams – Not prepared for speech, test, etc (College roommate)
- It's a terrible thing not to be ready for Jesus' return. Jesus speaks often about the need to be ready for His return. Today let's look at a parable in Matthew 25 that calls us to prepare ourselves.

URGENT TIMES:

- Matthew 25:1-13, “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

URGENT TIMES:

- Matthew 25:1-13, “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’”

URGENT TIMES:

- Matthew 25:1-13, “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

URGENT TIMES:

- Unlike the American culture, in this society, the bridegroom was the center of attention. People received an invitation, and they were expected to be ready when the bridegroom arrived. He is delayed in the story. Five of these members of the bridal party were ready; they brought extra oil (torches – rag mounted on a stick soaked with oil; 15 minutes) Five were not ready (unprepared; lazy? Distracted?)

URGENT TIMES:

- The ones with oil won't share. It may seem selfish, but this story is a parable, it isn't supposed to be real life.
- Jesus is making a point: Spiritual preparedness is not something that someone else can do for you. Everyone needs their own oil. "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

URGENT TIMES:

- What does it mean to keep watch? To be prepared for the Bridegroom's coming?
- We need the oil of the Spirit. We must have the Spirit within us; we must be saved. Preparedness begins by accepting the invitation of the Father to come through faith in the Son. (trust Christ alone for salvation; have God's heart for others salvation – Evangelistic fervor & intentionality b/c time is short; Friend - pleaded)

URGENT TIMES:

- What does it mean to keep watch? To be prepared for the Bridegroom's coming?
- But, I don't think this parable is just about being saved. It is about the oil of His current presence – it is about keeping the torch of our passion, our fire for God burning, by the current presence of the Spirit's life & activity within us. He tells this parable to His disciples. He told them, “You must be ready.” (5 foolish virgins had torches & some oil, problem is they ran out)

URGENT TIMES:

- What does it mean to keep watch? To be prepared for the Bridegroom's coming?
- We don't need to be alarmed at his coming (Mt 24:6, "See to it that you are not alarmed.") We just need to be prepared. When we are aligned, we don't have to be alarmed. We don't have to be perfect to be aligned. But, Jesus does have to be our first priority. (walk with the Spirit – confessions current; heart soft; Yes to God; passionate love affair)

URGENT TIMES:

- What does it mean to keep watch? To be prepared for the Bridegroom's coming?
- The necessary preparation is that we are not more attached to the shakable than we are to the unshakable King & His Kingdom.
(everything is shaken in the end; one thing remains; one thing is needed; one thing is eternal; one citizenship matters) (wanderers & drop outs; eternal focus)

URGENT TIMES:

- What does it mean to keep watch? To be prepared for the Bridegroom's coming?
- To be prepared with the oil of intimacy we must value Jesus above all, love Jesus first of all, and pursue Jesus most of all. (Cultivate desire; vital union disciplines that feed desire – soaking, silence, spiritual reading; Scripture meditation, soul friends, Holy Spirit encounters, Voice of God, etc) (Arnott – “Give me your mornings” – 2 yrs later)

URGENT TIMES:

- Are you ready? How is your oil supply? Is your torch burning bright? Are you loving Jesus first? He longs for a Bride that loves Him. Are you saying 'yes' to God? Are you living for His eternal, unshakable Kingdom?