

## **“Are You Really Prepared?”**

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In 1988, a cameraman, who was also a skydiver, jumped from a plane along with several others and filmed them as they jumped. After the final skydiver opened his chute, the cameraman, having completed his filming of the other skydivers, reached for his ripcord. It was then he realized he'd forgotten to put on his parachute. Up until then, he was enjoying himself and was absorbed in what he was doing, but tragically, he was really unprepared for the jump.

Open to Matthew 25. We find ourselves hearing a parable of Jesus about the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. He used a wedding for the story. There are ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom to come so they can escort him to his bride and the wedding feast. The bridegroom is delayed in coming so the virgins are left to wait.

Jesus has invited you to the wedding feast of life in heaven. You don't know when that will be, but as you live each day as a Child of God there are some things you need to do to really be prepared. You have to Be Wise. Look at verses 1-4, *“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.”*

We live a world of now! We want things when we want them and normally for us that's yesterday! So when Jesus says He is coming soon 2,000 years ago and He still hasn't returned yet, it's so easy for us to think we still have time!

That's the way many people think. The world says 'what's the rush to believe. You don't have to come to grips with your sins because you'll still have time to take care of it!' The patterns of the world and our own human nature many times just make Jesus a very small part of life.

You have to Be Repentant. Satan wants us to be unprepared for the Lord's Coming. He wants us to become so lazy, lukewarm and laid-back that we forget all about sin. Or we can get so busy and so distracted that we no longer think of being prepared!

Look at Titus 2. Because of our sinful nature, all of our actions and words need to change and instead give glory to God. Verses 11-13, *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

We need to turn to God daily realizing our wrongs and confess our sins to Him trusting in His grace and mercy. There's nothing we can do to change our human pattern. Each of us daily sins much and are in need of His forgiveness. We can only repent through the Holy Spirit guiding and leading.

You have to Be Faithful. You need to recognize Jesus Christ is your Savior and Lord. He came to suffer and die for you and take all your sins to the cross. He took the punishment you deserve. You need to follow Him with all your heart. It's important that you worship Him and turn to Him in His Word and prayer daily. You need to learn of Him each and every day and listen to Him with an open heart.

He wants you to know that no matter what is going on in your life, He's always at your side! You can trust Him! He won't let you down! That's why every Christian

should come to worship and the Lord's Table to receive the gifts of His presence in His body and blood.

You have to Be Committed. Nothing can stand in the way of Jesus Christ! He has to be first and all to you! This will mean that all of life needs to revolve around Him! This doesn't mean you can ignore your job or your friends and family, but it does mean you have to continually ask yourself the questions, *"How can I show Jesus each and every day to everyone and how can I help them see how special they are to Him?"*

Jesus has called you to be His witnesses to the world and share Him. The world around you is lost. As people see you, they need to see that Jesus came for you and comes for them as well. That will mean that you won't be like the people around you at work or in your neighborhood. Your focus will be on Him.

You have to Be Prepared. Let's look back at the parable, verses 10-13, *"And while they [the foolish ones] were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."*

Jesus is the door. Before He comes again, the door is open to all, and everyone has the opportunity to enter. But once the trumpet sounds and Jesus returns, it's closed and it's too late! Notice what's said. The virgins request that the door be opened again, but instead of Jesus doing that, He says to those who weren't wise, weren't repentant, weren't faithful, weren't committed, and weren't prepared, *"I do not know you!"* That's the tragedy of an unprepared life!

Jesus is coming! Get prepared and stay prepared! It's time to prepare for the great day coming! Don't miss the opportunity of heaven forever!