

**LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING: The King is Coming Again**  
**Matthew 25:1-13**

**WELCOME/CONNECT:**

Good Morning, church family. It's always good to be with you! My name is Eric and I get the pleasure of serving as the Student Minister here at Trinity. If this is your first time joining with us, welcome, and I hope you feel right at home and like you belong. We would love to connect with you and one way you could help us do that is by texting our key word "TBCMP" which stands for Trinity Baptist Church Mount Pleasant to the number 94000. When you hit send, you'll get back a short form that you can complete as much information as you want.

If texting is not your thing, I get it! We want to invite you to stop by the blue banner in the fellowship area that says HOPE IS HERE. You will be given a form to complete as well.

When you do either of those you will receive a gift for being our guest this morning. Again, welcome, and we're glad to have you.

**SERIES OVERVIEW:**

Since the beginning of the month we have been walking through our Christmas teaching series called "Let Earth Receive Her King". We've talked about *King Promised*, *The King Announced*, *The King Delivered*, and that *The King Saves*. Through these, we've tried to highlight the truth and the emphasis of Christmas, which is that Jesus Christ came to earth to offer eternal life to sinners like you and me.

Today, we will land the plane on this series as we look towards the truth that The King Will Come Again.

As we begin, this is by no way a message about the different end time positions or when I think Jesus will come back. If that is what you are wanting then you will be sadly mistaken. However, we will uncover the most impactful

truth and the whole point Jesus mentions his second coming – which is to prepare his people to be a faithful witness in our world for His glory!

**MESSAGE:**

So, if you would turn in your copy of God's Word to Matthew 25:1-13 we will read our passage and see what the Lord would like to teach us this morning!

**CONTEXT:**

Before we begin, I want to provide context that would help our understanding as we read our passage.

In this narrative, Jesus uses the backdrop of first-century Palestinian wedding festivities to help see the point he's making. In their customs it was typical for the ceremony to be long and elaborate!

The groom and his groomsmen would walk to the bride's home where they would meet the bride and bridesmaids. Once they reached her home, the bridesmaids and the bride, along with the groomsmen would walk back to the groom's home. However, it wasn't just going back and forth from one place to the other. After the wedding party would leave the bride's home, they would be welcomed back with an elaborate procession by others. The time of day was usually when the sun went down so there were torches, which our passage mentions as lamps, to help light the way in the darkness. The bridesmaids would be responsible for bringing enough oil.

Imagine getting married and the whole city celebrating you on one of the biggest days of your life! Some of us think in our BC days we could party but I promise you there's no party or wedding like this one. So, after they arrived back at the groom's party the actual banquet feast would begin.

Now, with this background context and in our passage, I want us to see 3 things that this text teaches us. First we see the *The Call to be Prepared*. Second, we see *The Challenge to be Prepared*, and third, we'll see *The Consequences of Being Prepared*.

So, let's grab our Bibles and read Matthew 25:1-13, together.

## READ MATTHEW 25:1-13

**ILLUSTRATION: Reading and English as my favorite subjects with Mrs.**

**Barker:**

In high school one of my favorite subjects was English and Reading. Even though I loved those subjects I was never a good test taker. But one year I had a reading teacher in 7<sup>th</sup> grade who told me such a revolutionary statement at the time about any reading test. For my grade, the reading test looked like a bunch of short stories that you had to answer critical questions about. My teacher, Mrs. Barker, told me that "All the answers are in the story"! This was reassuring for me because I knew that if I read the story close enough I could know the answers. She would tell me to look for the main idea of the story which is usually the first or last sentence.

In the same way, as we read this passage and we look at the last verse, verse 13, we see that main idea that Jesus is wanting to point us toward is that we do not know when Jesus is coming back for his Church, The Bride of Christ. And Jesus shares this with us so that we would be prepared for his return!

So, as we study this passage together my prayer and hope is that you would be encouraged to be prepared for the The King's return.

The first truth that Jesus points out to us is The Call to be Prepared...

### 1. The Call to be Prepared (vv. 1-4)

Look back with me at verses 1-4. Jesus says **"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps<sup>[a]</sup> and went to meet the bridegroom.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks**

**of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept."**

These first 4 verses helps us to see the importance of being prepared for the return of Jesus Christ. In these verses we are first introduced to the characters of this analogy that Jesus uses.

First, we have the 10 virgins who are depicted as professing Christians. These are people who have made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord of their life. We see that there are 5 wise virgins and 5 foolish virgins. The only difference between the wise and the foolish is **the amount of oil they brought** for their torch or lamps. Or more plainly put, the difference between the wise Christian and the foolish Christian is the one who is prepared for when Jesus Comes back!

I want to lay before you 3 ways in HOW we can be prepared.

#### **The Bible:**

First the Bible prepares us. **Psalm 119:105** instructs you and I, as Christians, on how to be prepared by saying **"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."** God's Word is more than just words on a page that give you insights into the world. God's Word is the primary way that you will be shaped into the image of Christ to be made more like him. When we spend time reading, meditating, and considering the Words in the Bible, we're allowing the scripture of God to prepare and treat the symptoms of our heart.

#### **Proximity to God:**

Second, our proximity to God helps prepares us for Christ return. When we are God's Word, as a result we will have proximity to Christ.

**ILLUSTRATION Accent Mirroring:**

This is the weirdest thing ever, but have you ever been around someone with an accent and after listening and talking with them for a while you feel a random and insensitive urge to talk in that same accent? If you haven't it's a

real thing “known as ‘accent mirroring’ or ‘phonetic convergence.’ It’s a natural human behavior that often occurs unconsciously as a way to build rapport and establish a connection with the person you’re speaking to.” I promise you it’s real...

But in the same way that our brains try to mimic someone’s accent is the same way our lives and proximity will change to God based on how often we are in God’s Word.

### **Biblical Community:**

Lastly, we can prepare ourselves for Christ return in true biblical community. This is more than just going to church. It’s getting plugged into a group, serving on team, and moving the mission forward! When we allow ourselves to be in biblical community we are allowing the Word of God to be made alive through the people of God so that we can better live for God!

We ought to have people in our life that we can both lean on and that also has the freedom and allowance to sharpen us as instruments of the Kingdom. Do you have other people who has access to your life, to ask you tough questions, who can place the mirror of God’s Word to you and ask you confess sin? This is the type of Biblical community that transforms our hearts.

We can never expect to fully loved and accepted if we are unable to be fully seen!

When Jesus returns he will be returning for a bride that is in biblical community with one another, who has been conformed into the image of the Son through God’s Word, and who has close proximity to Jesus. In short, Jesus will come back for a church that took the call to be prepared seriously.

## **2. The Challenge to be Prepared (vv.5-9)**

The second truth we see in our passage is the Challenge to be Prepared. Look back with me to verses 5-9. **“5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all**

**became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.8 And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’**

There is nothing more frustrating than waiting on someone who you know is coming but you don’t know the time.

### **ILLUSTRATION: Being Picked Up**

I remember as a athlete in 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade when practice was over you had a slew or a school parking lot filled with other students who were waiting to be picked up. You couldn’t ride the bus because they didn’t pick up athletes after school and I didn’t have siblings at the time that could drive me. I knew my parents were coming because they told me but after so long and after you see everyone starting to be picked up you begin to worry. I would take out my phone to check the time every few minutes or so. If I saw car lights I would think that it was my parents, but after awhile I would just stop guessing.

The point here is that we all understand the annoyance it is to wait. In fact, some of you in this room right now are the first people to start asking “Where is everybody” if there was a meeting planned at 10 AM and everyone isn’t there by 10:03 AM.

The temptation and challenge for you and I, as God’s people, while waiting on the return of Jesus is becoming spiritually lazy and lethargic. We see it in the text! Look at verse 5, **“they all became drowsy and slept”**. The virgins that were waiting for the bridegroom got sleepy because the groom wasn’t there yet and was taking too long.

We do the same thing in our walk. Because Christ has not come back or we have not seen a great physical sign our inclination is to become more comfortable and to not be on guard as it relates to our life in Christ.

So, how do we get spiritually lazy? One way that I believe we become spiritually sleepy is when we prioritize good things over God things.

This is when we allow a multitude of things and life situations to take precedent and priority over the things of God. This take many forms for many of us and may not be the same. For some you place the opinion of others over sharing your faith. You choose a job promotion over living out Biblical principals because you may not want to seem like that person who is too Christian. Students, you can become spiritually lazy when you consider the opinions of your friends and people you may never meet on social media over the truths of God's Word being spoken through Christ-following parents.

In this analogy that Jesus shares, the oil that separated the foolish Christian from the wise Christian speaks to the Christian witness in their life. Matthew 5:14-16 gives us a point of reference for this by saying <sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

When we become spiritually lazy and lethargic we lose our witness – the very thing that we are called to let shine among the world! You're light brings and shows Christ to others! The way you live your life in front of sinners, in front of you kids, your toddlers, your friends gives the image that people see Christ!

So, how we do move forward if we are found to be spiritually lazy. In Revelation 2:5, God shares with the church in Ephesus about the same thing and he say this **“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.”** We need to do three things. Remember, Repent, and Renew.

We need to **remember** the love we had for Christ and his Word and His people from when we first believed. We need to **repent** – turn from being

spiritually lazy and not just say sorry. Repentance is an action with steps carried out. We need to **renew** our commitment in our lives to live for the Lord moving forward.

The challenge of being prepared is that we can become spiritually lazy but the good news of the gospel is life to our bodies!

### 3. The Consequence of Being Prepared (vv.10-13)

The last truth we see in our passage is the Consequence of Being Prepared. Look back with me at verses 10-13 of this chapter. Jesus says **“<sup>10</sup> And while they 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. <sup>11</sup> Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup> But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”**

I want to address two things specifically. First, the consequence of being prepared and next the consequence of being UNprepared.

#### Being Prepared:

If you look at the text, the description of those who went into the marriage feast were described as **“those who were ready”!**

#### ILLUSTRATION: Being ready for church with my dad.

As a boy growing up, we went to church faithfully. My dad was very good about leaving on time. He would let us know beforehand the exact time that you he would leave so that he could be at church. When I wasn't ready to leave when he was, do you know what happened? I was left behind. The issue came when we learned that if I rode to church with my dad we would get donuts! So, do you know what I made sure I was doing at the time my dad said he was leaving? I made sure I was standing at the door...ready.

The same is true when Jesus returns! The Bible is so clear about what is waiting for us in eternity. How nothing in this world can compare the beauty and majesty that we will experience being in the full presence of God. If we would devote ourselves for this short amount of time while here on earth we will be with Jesus when he returns. The joy of being prepared is that we will be in and participate in the eternal banquet with Christ!

### **Not Being Prepared:**

The consequence of not being prepared is stated here also. Look back at verse 12. Jesus says to the virgins who were not ready “**Truly, I say to you, I do not know you**”. The question and heart check here is do you KNOW Jesus. Not do you know about him or know things about him. Many people know of Jesus. They know he is the Son of God, born of a virgin, died on the cross and resurrected 3 days later and is promised to come back again. **James 2:19** says “**Even the demons believe that**”!

In our world, everyone’s a Christian. We are so Christian that we can know how Christian you are by the party you voted for or what part of town you live in or by what news network that you watch. We are so Christian that we know if you are a true follower of Christ if you wear a cross around your neck or have a bible verse written on your social media bio or if you have a Christian tattoo or not. This is how Christian we are. The truth of the matter is that we have based our Christianity on what we do instead of what Christ has DONE!

The scary thing about focusing on us and what we do is that the people around us will look at the works that we do and say job well done. Those around you and I will look at your attendance at church and say “you’re such a faithful follower of Jesus” or will hear you quoting scripture every third sentence and marvel at how you are so in the Word! The people around us will give us the affirmation we need to continue this processional of a false Christian when we are dying on the inside. There is only one thing, one person that saves us and his name is Jesus Christ! You can’t be born into the faith you must make a personal decision to follow Jesus.

The question this morning, church, is not do YOU know Jesus but does JESUS KNOW YOU!

### **CONCLUSION:**

As we wrap up this morning I want to draw your attention to the response that the wise virgins gave to the foolish virgins. In verse 9 the wise virgins says “**go rather to the dealers and buy for yourself**”. Church, this is good news. We are able to go directly to the source for salvation. We don’t have to go through a human mediator but we can go today in this moment to God for salvation.

The Bible says that if we confess with our mouth and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came down from heaven to save and offer forgiveness of sin – then you can have eternal life. I trust, this morning, that the Holy Spirit has been speaking to you. Maybe it was about you placing good things over God things or maybe about about spiritually lazy. However the Holy Spirit spoke to you, your next step is to respond.

After I pray, the worship team will lead us in a song of response and we will have our elders here at the front to lead you in prayer or help you start the conversation about salvation.

Let’s Pray.