Parable Of The Ten Virgins

Intro: Jesus gives the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13 The Lord is using a living experience to teach a lesson concerning the kingdom of heaven.

I. WATCH: PRIME LESSON OF THE PARABLE.
   A. To watch means to be ready always.
   B. God gave us the responsibility to watch.
      1. 1 Cor. 16:13 “13 Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”
      2. 1 Pet. 5:8 “8 Be sober, be vigilant [watchful—ASV]; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”
      3. Mat. 24:42 “42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”
      4. Mat. 24:46 “46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.”
   C. What watching does not mean:
      1. To make hurried attempts to get ready.
         a. John 9:4 “4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”
      2. To be sky-gazers
         a. Acts 1:10-12 “10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; 11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. 12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day’s journey.”
         b. Some in Thessalonica had become sky-gazers (waiting for the Lord’s return).
            (1) Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians to tell them to get back to work
            (2) 2 The. 3:10-12 “10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.
               12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”

II. THERE WILL BE NO PREPARATION WHEN CHRIST COMES.
   A. The foolish could not borrow oil.
      1. We will not be judged upon what someone else has done.
      2. We will not be judged upon the basis of Christ’s goodness (doctrine of imputed righteousness; the personal righteousness of Christ is transferred to us).
   B. They did not have time to go buy.
      1. We meet God in the condition we are when we die; there will be no second chance.
      2. After death comes the judgment; Heb. 9:27 “27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
   C. Now is the time to prepare.
      1. 2 Cor. 6:2 “2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”
2. Heb. 3:7-8 “Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, a Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:”

III. THEN EACH SHALL BE KNOWN AS GOD KNOWS US.

A. Our character shall be revealed.
1. Reputation: what people think we are.
2. Character: what God knows we are.

B. Before the bridegroom came, all looked alike, all had the same expectations, all looked for him to come.

C. When he comes our differences will be known.
1. 1 Cor. 4:5 “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.”
2. God will judge and separate according to our works; everyone will know whether we are a goat or sheep.
   a. Rom. 2:16 “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”
   b. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
   c. Mat. 25:31-46 “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

IV. MANY WILL BE DISAPPOINTED.

A. All ten expected to go in, but didn’t; Mat. 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

B. The careless (foolish) were disappointed.
1. They had not watched.
2. They were not prepared.
3. Have you prepared.
   a. Have you obeyed the Gospel?
   b. Are you living according to God’s law?
   c. Do you attend Bible classes on Sunday and Wednesday, all the worship services of the church?
   d. Do you look for ways to be of service to the church and to others?

V. HIS COMING SHOULD BE ENJOYED...AND JOYFUL.
   A. Notice Paul’s attitude concerning death, judgment, and the afterlife.
      1. Phi. 1:21-23 “21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.”
      2. 1 Tim. 4:7-8 “7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”
   B. We should have the same earnest expectation of heaven.
      1. Tit. 1:2 “2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”
      2. 1 Pet. 1:3-6, 9 “3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:… 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”

VI. WHY WERE THE FIVE FOOLISH.
   A. They were time setters.
      1. No one knows when the Master will come.
      2. Mat. 25:13 “13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”
      3. 2 Pet. 3:10 “10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”
   B. They were not ready.
   C. They tried to make hurried preparations.
   D. Eph. 5:17 “17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”

Conclusion: 2 Pet. 3:10-12 “10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” Have you been watching? Are you ready for Christ’s coming?