

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – October 15, 2023

Theme: The Urgency of the Last Days Topic: Be Prepared and Wise

Main Texts: Matthew 25:1 - 13

Key verse: Matthew 25:13 – *“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”* (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: Last week’s lesson looked at the parable of the master who returned to find some of his servants eagerly awaiting his return, and some completely unprepared for him. This week’s study highlights another parable with a similar message: Jesus is coming soon; We need to be alert, for no one knows the day nor the hour when He will return (Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32). We must be vigilant, and like Apostle Paul, relentlessly press for the mark of the prize of the high calling of Jesus Christ. To ‘press’ means to pursue, to push, to persist. We need to live daily in the consciousness of Jesus Christ’s impending return no matter how long it may seem to be taking. We must remain faithful and not grow weary in doing good.

1. **(a) The wise and the foolish virgins represent the body of Christ and the Bridegroom is Jesus Christ. Why were they referred to as “wise” and “foolish”? (b) According to the text, all the virgins fell asleep, all heard the call at midnight when the Bridegroom arrived and all arose to trim their lamps but not all could go into the feast. What does this reveal about those who may look like they’re ready for the Bridegroom’s return? (c) Why must we remain faithful even if the Master’s return appears to be delayed? (See Habakkuk 2:3; Galatians 6:9).**

The wise virgins were mindful that they would need more oil because they were not only focused on living in the present, they were looking ahead to the future... to what was to come. They had set their minds on things above (Colossians 3:2). Oil in a lamp fuels the wick to burn. The oil in the wise virgins’ lamps could represent the fuel for the Christ Life, The Word of God. It is no wonder the Bible calls us the “light of the world”. This is because our lives are like lamps. When we receive Jesus Christ into our hearts (i.e. our lamps), the Holy Spirit comes in, and for those who choose the way of discipleship, He begins a process of filling us with Himself, The Living Word, training and transforming us to obey and do what He commands, which then shines the light from the lamp (our lives) to the world.

2. **(a) In Colossians 3:1-4, it says we have died and our lives are hid with Christ in God. What does this mean? (See Galatians 2:20; 5:24). (b) Of what significance is the discipleship process to our being prepared for Jesus’s return? (c) How can we fill our lamps with oil on a daily basis? (Romans 13:14; Galatians 5:16).**

When the Bridegroom comes for the feast, only those who are ready will go in with Him. Those who are not will be locked out and there will be no second chances for them (Matthew 7:21-23). It is therefore imperative that we remain steadfast in our pursuit of Christlikeness, readying ourselves for the Bridegroom’s return. The danger for those who may get distracted by the cares of this world, or who many want to “slack off” or “take a break” from living the Life of Christ, is that no one knows the day nor the hour when He will return. You cannot afford to be caught unawares! For those who have submitted themselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit and remain faithful till the end, they can be assured of enjoying the feast of the Lord.

3. **(a) From Matthew 25:10, what reward is waiting for those that are ready for the Bridegroom’s return? See also Matthew 24:46-47. (b) What will be the fate of Christians who miss the Great feast of the Lord? (Matthew 25:12; Luke 13:27) (c) Following the responses to ‘a’ and ‘b’, what does Jesus want us to do in light of His second coming? How can this shape our daily lives and priorities? (d) Personal Reflection: Does the life of Christ shine through you? Or are you living a ‘fake Christianity’?**

Prayer: *Dear Father, we thank You for Your Word. Help us to choose the way of discipleship and to pursue the life of Christ with every fiber of our being. Fill us with afresh with Your Holy Spirit, and make us ready for Your return, in Jesus Name, Amen.*