

# UNDERSTAND THE TIMES KNOW HOW TO LIVE

Matthew 24







#### **INTRODUCTION**

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NLT) From the tribe of Issachar, there were 200 leaders of the tribe with their relatives. All these men understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take.

Series Theme: "Understand the times, to know how to live."



**PREVIEW** 

MESSAGE THEME: Live Alert – Be Prepared



#### **REVIEW**

#### The Signs:

- 24:15 Abomination of Desolation
- 24:21 Great Tribulation
- 24:24 Great Deception
- 24:29 Great Darkness
- 24:30 Great Appearing
- but He made clear that no one but the Father knew the day or hour of His coming (Matthew 24:36) therefore live awake and alert.



#### **BACKGROUND**

1. A Series of Stories



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- 1. A Series of Stories
- 2. A Jewish Wedding



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- 1. A Series of Stories
- 2. A Jewish Wedding
- 3. The Jewish Wedding



#### 3. The Jewish Wedding

- The Engagement
- The Betrothal
- The Wedding Procession
- The Wedding Ceremony/Feast



The Story Introduced

vss. 1-4

Matthew 25:1–4 (ESV) "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.



The Story Introduced vss. 1-4

The Bridegroom's Coming vss. 5-6

Matthew 25:5–6 (ESV) 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.'



The Bridegroom's Coming vss. 5-6

The Foolish and the Wise vss. 7-9

Matthew 25:7–9 (ESV) 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.'



The Bridegroom's Coming vss. 5-6

The Foolish and the Wise vss. 7-9

Finally vs. 10

Matthew 25:10 (ESV) 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.



The Foolish and the Wise vss. 7-9

Finally vs. 10

Too Late vss. 11-12

Matthew 25:11–12 (ESV) Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'



1 Thessalonians 5:12–13 (ESV) We ask you, brothers, to <u>respect</u> [oida] those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.



#### PARABLE LIVE ALERT – BE PREPARED

Matthew 25:13 (ESV) Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.



### APPLICATION Live Alert – Be Prepared!



2 John 8 (NLT) Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward.



Luke 21:34–36 (ESV) "But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."



1 John 2:28 (ESV) And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.



# APPLICATION Live Alert – Live Prepared Faith-filled Life for God



1 Peter 1:6–7 (NLT) So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. 7 These trials will show that your <u>faith</u> is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your <u>faith</u> is far more precious than mere gold. So when your <u>faith</u> remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor <u>on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed</u> to the whole world.



Live Alert!

Live Prepared

Faith-filled Life for God

Love-filled for God



Romans 5:3–5 (NLT) We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.



Live Alert!

Live Prepared

**Extra Considerations** 

1. Our oil reserves are not a shareable resource.



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- 1. Our oil reserves are not a shareable resource.
- 2. Don't allow relationships to compromise your prepared state.



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#### **Extra Considerations**

- 1. Our oil reserves are not a shareable resource.
- 2. Don't allow relationships to compromise your prepared state.
- 3. The Bible, prayer, worship, and community are key to your preparedness.



#### "Lead your life as if Christ's return is today and be prepared to wait."

Matthew 22:37–38 (ESV) And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment.

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.





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