

## ARE YOU READY?

REFUEL 10/13/2021

- Being Ready
- The people who get the best results in life are the ones who are prepared for it
- These people have studied, they have practiced or rehearsed to the point that when called upon they are able to perform
- As Christians, we need to be ready and prepared having put into practice the plans for the days ahead
- There is no doubt that we are in truly strange times that require us to be mentally, physically and emotionally prepared
  - By not doing so:
    - We show an ignorance of God's word
    - A lack of faith in who God is
    - We are poor example to others who are looking for answers during these times
- We are getting shocking news on a daily basis of some crisis that will have an effect on our lives
  - Food shortages
  - Supply chain issues
  - Mandates, etc.
  - These things are squeezing the economy to the point of collapse
- We are experiencing a shaking up of our way of life that we absolutely need to pay attention to and be ready for
- We are seeing freedoms that we have had our whole lifetime being taken away
- What was once taken for granted shouldn't be any more
- As Christians, we should have an understanding of what God is doing in these times, because He has already told us what He is going to do
  - When we see some event unfold, our first thought needs to be – “How does this fit into God's overall plan?”

- When we see countries surrounding Israel that are not their friends, we should not be surprised – That is what Ezekiel 38 & 39 said was going to happen during these days
  - Every time we hear about Israel bombing something in Damascus our minds should go to Isaiah 17 that says one day that city will be a ruinous heap
  - When we see a world that just doesn't accept logical thinking but is more than happy to call boys- girls and girls- boys Romans 1 should pop right into our head
  - How about unruly, unthankful, nasty people, who are in love with themselves? 2 Timothy says that is exactly the way it is going to be in the end days
- So, great – the world is falling apart around us, now what
  - Doctrine of Immanency – something is about to happen very soon
  - It is this understanding that should keep Christians ready at all times
  - We never know when Christ is coming for us so we are to always be prepared
  - Jesus explains this in Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. <sup>3</sup> Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

<sup>6</sup> “And at midnight a cry was *heard*: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, ‘*No*, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; 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 and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

<sup>13</sup> “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

- As we look at this set of scriptures, we need to make some observations so we know what is happening and why
  - We know this parable is teaching about the coming of the Lord
    - Jesus is still answering the question the disciples asked Him in chapter 24 of signs for His coming back
    - The analogy of the groom coming to get His bride is used
    - Also we see ten Brides and only one Groom
      - You would expect 10 groomsmen for the 10 brides but here we have just the 1 groom
      - Since no one would expect the 10 to 1 ratio to be a real scenario, then Jesus is speaking of a bigger picture
      - Speaks of Him coming for His bride
- Jesus says that 5 of these virgins were wise and the other 5 were foolish
  - Let's start with the wise one's first
    - They had their lamps and oil ready to go
    - They went out at the time they were expecting the groom
    - Not knowing how long they would be waiting they prepared enough to make it through the night
    - They were not willing to give up what they had because they didn't want to miss out themselves
    - They gave the foolish virgins advice to go get oil from the market
    - When the bridegroom came they were ready and went into the wedding
  - The foolish on the other hand
    - They had lamps just like the wise virgins ... but
    - What they didn't do was prepare properly
    - Because of the delay of the groom, they were out of oil
    - They knew they were in trouble and were willing to take from those who had prepared

- Then they scrambled to go find someone who would sell them oil
  - It was already dark; how many sellers do we think were available?
  - They were left out of the wedding
- When we look at what each represent we see what Jesus is telling us
  - The wise – or believers – the ones who have the oil – the Holy Spirit are prepared when Jesus calls them
  - The foolish – unbelievers – the ones who have no oil – Holy Spirit they are not prepared
  - They were then left out of the wedding party
  - Then the groom looks at them and says “I don’t know you”
- When the trumpet sounds and the bride is called home, as it says in 1 Thess. 4, those who are His will be ready
  - They will have taken seriously the relationship with Christ
  - They will have heeded God’s word and made themselves ready
- The sad part is there are some who act like they are Christians, those who give money or maybe even work in a church or think they are good in some way who just will not make it
  - They never have been serious about Jesus
  - They lack obedience
  - They lack a love for Jesus
  - They have never given their life to Him and therefore do not have the Holy Spirit living in them
- This parable is a perfect representation of what happens at the rapture
  - When Jesus comes He will call those who are His
  - Those who are not His will be left behind
  - They will be shocked thinking they were going to make it and did not
- As we enter these last days we will most likely will have to endure some sort of persecution
  - It could come on the form of being denied access to things

- Like freedom to travel (Can't go to Israel now)
  - In Australia they cannot leave their neighborhood in some areas
  - Loss of jobs
  - Loss of healthcare
  - Ability to buy and sell
- These and much more are happening as we speak today and are precursors to what we see in Revelation
  - There is a plan for a global reset of how money is handled and economies of the world interact
  - Individuals are being tracked and traced to see everywhere they have been and whom they have had contact with
  - There will be so much chaos that the world will be ripe for a leader who can fix all of this
  - It plays out just like the bible says it will
- All of this sounds scary
  - If you are not a Christian, you should be worried
  - Each one of us should examine our life to see if we are just "Playing church" or if our relationship with Jesus is real
  - If you are a Christian, you will have the opportunity to be a part of the most amazing event to ever happen
  - There will be a day, coming soon hopefully, where all of those who claim Jesus Christ as their Savior will be taken from the earth to meet Him in the air and we will forever be with Him
  - Persecution of Christians ends at this point
  - We will have successfully won the race
- At the beginning of our time we talked about being mentally, physically and emotionally prepared
  - Knowing these things are coming we should have peace in our heart that Jesus is in control
  - The coming series of events should not catch us off guard
  - Having this information and sharing it with your family and friends helps with the mental and emotional parts of being ready

- Taking steps of independence from medicines that you take or finding alternatives should be on our list
- I understand that is a difficult one and you may not be able to but at least look into options so you are not limited
- Make sure you have supplies that can at least get you through a short term crisis as well as having something for others who may be hurting
  
- Last, and most important, make sure you are spending the proper amount of time with God
  - Plan your time for devotion, prayer, reading and worship
  - If you do not give time to God and be prepared to listen to Him, how will He prepare you?
  - Be obedient to what He shows you
  - Trust Him with all your heart