

# Stay Alert, You Know Neither the Day Nor the Hour

Matthew 25:1-13

On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' **(Matthew 7:22-23)**

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! **(2 Corinthians 13:5)**

*A man may as well descend to Hell being orthodox, as being heterodox. Alas, I suppose that no one is more orthodox than the devil-yet no one is more surely lost than he is!* **(Charles Spurgeon)**

Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. **(Matthew 24:42)**

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. **(Matthew 24:44)**

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

## I. They Await the Kingdom on the King's Terms

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. **(Matthew 25:1)**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **(Matthew 5:3)**

And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' **(Matthew 10:7)**

Then the disciples came and said to him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' And he answered them, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven...' **(Matthew 13:10-11)**

And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, 'Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.' **(Matthew 18:2-4)**

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



*These lamps were called Beth Shiqqua.*

Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. . . . But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (**Matthew 24:45-51**)

He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' (**Matthew 25:24-25**)

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (**Matthew 5:20**)

## II. They Await the Kingdom at Any Moment

As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 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.' 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. **(Matthew 25:5–10)**

For **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God. **(Romans 3:23)**

Among whom **we all** once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath**, like the rest of mankind. **(Ephesians 2:3)**

For the wages of sin is death... **(Romans 6:23)**

...but the free gift of God is eternal life **in Christ Jesus** our Lord. **(Romans 6:23)**

Even when we were dead in our trespasses, [God] made us alive together **with Christ**—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places **in Christ Jesus**. **(Ephesians 2:5–6)**

## III. They Await the Kingdom Without Fear of Judgment

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. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, **'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'** Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. **(Matthew 25:10–13)**

'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, **'I never knew you'**; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' **(Matthew 7:22–23)**

I am the good shepherd. **I know my own and my own know me**, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. **(John 10:14–15)**

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' (**Matthew 25:31–36**)

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' (**Matthew 25:37-40**)

Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' **And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.** (**Matthew 25:45–46**)

By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. (**1 John 4:17–18, ESV**)

***Be watchful, be attentive, examine yourselves,  
because you do not know when the Son of Man will come.***