

## Hidden Kingdom Part 8 - "Be Ready" (3-28-21)

**Introduction: March Madness & Palm Sunday** (Shoot your shot / don't miss your visitation)

**Palm Sunday** - Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem. They had much joy, and we can now too!

**However** - Jesus viewed things differently, because he realized that many weren't ready . . .

### Luke 19:41-44 (ESV)

(41) And when he drew near and saw the city, **he wept over it**, (42) saying, "**Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace!** But now they are hidden from your eyes. (43) For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side (44) and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, **because you did not know the time of your visitation.**"

- During Jesus' final week, as he is preparing for his coming death, he spends much of his time warning and preparing his followers for what is to come after his death, burial, and resurrection.
- He was preparing them to live in the days we are now in!

**Text for Today:** Primarily Matthew 24-25 (see also - Mark 13 & Luke 21)

### 1) Be Ready for Jesus' Return

#### Matthew 25:1-13 (ESV)

(1) "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. (5) 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.' (7) 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.' (10) 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. (11) 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.' (13) Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

**Note:** Be ready for Jesus return!

- **You can't rely on someone else's oil!**

Not your parents or spouses faith,

Not your "religion" or "denomination"

Not your friend circle or who you associate with

- **Do you have oil?** - be filled with the presence of the Spirit of God, and you'll always have enough.

**Consider:** Elijah & the widow with oil & flour that never ran out during the 3 year famine (1 Kings 17)

#### Matthew 24:38-42 (ESV)

(38) For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, (39) and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (40) Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. (41) Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. (42) Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

**Note:** Everyone going about their lives - unaware! Don't be like that - stay awake, be prepared.

## 2) Be Ready for Jesus' "Delay"

### Matthew 24:32-33 (ESV)

(32) "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. (33) So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

### Matthew 24:3-4 (ESV)

(3) As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" (4) And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray."

**Note:** Jesus - when are you coming in power to rule? He answers -see that no one leads you astray . . .

- Wars & rumors of wars
- Famines, pestilence, earthquakes
- Suffering, tribulation, & death
- Things will get so bad (discouraging around us), that the love of many will grow cold

### Matthew 24:13-14 (ESV)

(13) But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (14) And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

**Note:** Despite his seeming "delay" - endurance for the saints & the spread of good news is essential!

One of his primary warnings is about "**False Christs**" - nation vs. nation / kingdom vs. kingdom

### Matthew 24:23-25 (ESV)

(23) Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. (24) For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. (25) See, I have told you beforehand.

**Note:** A prior warning, because when He seems to delay, and things get hard, there are other alternatives that will be compelling, inviting you to turn away!

### Matthew 24:26-30 (ESV)

(26) So, if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out. If they say, 'Look, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. (27) For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. (28) Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather. (29) "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (30) Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

**Note:** Don't get drawn away, don't be overwhelmed - you know what to watch for, and you won't miss it!

### Luke 21:28, 34-36 (ESV)

(28) Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." . . . (34) "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."

**Note:** Don't get drawn away, & be careful you don't check out either. **Pray for strong backs & open eyes!**

### 3) Be Ready for Jesus Activity

#### Matthew 24:44-46 (ESV)

(44) Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (45) “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? (46) Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

#### Parable of the Talents . . .

#### Matthew 25:14-15 (ESV)

(14) “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. (15) To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

**Note:** This is our present situation - we are called to “steward” our kingdom responsibility

#### Matthew 25:19-21 (ESV)

(19) Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. (20) And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ (21) His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

**Note:** Even the one who had most, really still had a little - don’t get hung up in comparison, watch against pride or against envy. You’ve been given unique gifts - use them for your Master!

#### Matthew 25:24-27 (ESV)

(24) 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, (25) so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ (26) But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? (27) Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.

**Note:** The last servant misunderstood his Master, & also missed his real purpose!

#### The King’s return - separating sheep & goats . . .

#### Matthew 25:34-40 (ESV)

(34) 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.** (35) 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, (36) I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ (37) Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? (38) And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? (39) And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ (40) 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.’

**Conclusion:** The best way to be ready when Jesus Returns, and to avoid losing your way while Jesus Delays - is to watch for and participate in **His Kingdom Activity** today!