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**2 Peter 3:8-10** “But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** “Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.”

**1 Timothy 4:1** “Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith.”

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-3** “Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the great falling away comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.”

**Matthew 25:1-13** “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. 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. 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."

### **Noteworthy:**

- Ten virgin bridesmaids await the coming of the bridegroom and the start of the wedding festivities.
- Five of the bridesmaids foolishly fail to bring extra oil for their lamps.
- Five of the bridesmaids wisely bring extra oil for their lamps.
- All ten of the bridesmaids fall asleep as they wait.
- They are roused at midnight when a cry goes out, "Here's the bridegroom!" (**Matt. 25:6**)
- The foolish virgins ask their companions for oil, since their lamps are going out.
- The wise virgins, who have no oil to spare, advise the unprepared to go buy oil.
- While the five foolish virgins are away, the bridegroom comes.
- The wise virgins enter the wedding banquet, and the door is shut.
- The foolish virgins return but find the door shut against them.
- They knock but are refused admittance.
- Oil in the scriptures metaphorically usually refers to the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus' final admonition is "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

### **How then shall we live?**

**2 Peter 3:11-13** "Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

**2 Peter 3:14-18** "Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them



that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

**Take Away:**

- We have got to stay grounded in truth.
- Our fellowship with the God is imperative (Prayer).
- Our fellowship with one another is security.
- Our focus on global evangelism keeps us vigilant.
- Remember the sacrifice until He returns.

