



The End PT.IV | The Judgement of Good People | Mark Allen | 9.7.25

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: What's one "good deed" you were proud of as a child? Did you expect recognition or reward for it?

Key Sermon Points

1. Hell Will Be Full of Good People

- Good works alone cannot save us
- Heaven is accessed only through faith in Jesus Christ
- John 14:6 - Jesus is the only way to the Father

2. The Parable Explained

- **The Bridegroom** = Jesus Christ
- **The Ten Virgins** = The Church (professing believers)
- **The Oil** = The Holy Spirit
- **The Number Ten** = Testing

3. The Critical Difference

- Five virgins were foolish (lacking oil/the Holy Spirit)
- Five virgins were prudent (had oil/the Holy Spirit)
- All appeared the same outwardly, but only half were truly prepared

Key Takeaways:

- ✓ Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus alone, not by good works (Ephesians 2:8-9)
 - ✓ The Holy Spirit is the seal of our salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14)
 - ✓ Outward religious activity doesn't guarantee inward spiritual reality
 - ✓ Jesus is returning, and we must be ready with genuine faith, not just good deeds
 - ✓ Church membership, service, and attendance cannot substitute for a personal relationship with Jesus
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Discussion Questions:

Understanding the Message

1. **What was your initial reaction to the statement "Hell will be full of good people"?** How does this challenge common assumptions about salvation?
2. **Read Matthew 25:1-13 together.** What details in this parable stand out to you now that you understand the symbolism?
3. **Why do you think Jesus used the imagery of a wedding and bridegroom to describe His return?** What does this tell us about His relationship with the church?

Going Deeper

4. **Pastor Mark mentioned that 50% of the church may not have the Holy Spirit despite appearing religious.** What are some ways people might look like Christians without actually having a relationship with Jesus?

5. **Discuss the difference between "doing good things" and "having faith in Jesus."** Can you have one without the other? Why or why not?
6. **Read Ephesians 5:22-32.** How does understanding the church as the "bride of Christ" change your perspective on your relationship with Jesus?
7. **The five foolish virgins had lamps and wicks but no oil.** What modern-day equivalents might this represent in church life today? (Example: church attendance without prayer, Bible knowledge without obedience, etc.)

Personal Application

8. **If someone asked you, "How do you know you're going to heaven?" what would you say?**
Would your answer focus on your good works or on Jesus?
9. **Pastor Mark asked, "What are you waiting for?"** Is there anything preventing you from fully surrendering to Christ? What would it look like to "decrease" so He can "increase" in your life?
10. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.** How should the imminent return of Christ affect the way we live today?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice:

1. **Self-Examination:** Set aside 30 minutes this week for honest self-reflection. Ask yourself: "Do I have a relationship with Jesus, or just religious activities?" Journal your thoughts and prayers.
2. **Share Your Faith:** Have a conversation with someone about what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus (not just being a "good person").

3. **Study the Holy Spirit:** Read and meditate on passages about the Holy Spirit's role in a believer's life (Romans 8:9-17, Galatians 5:22-25, John 14:15-17).
 4. **Examine Your "Oil":** Make a list of your spiritual practices. Are they fueled by the Holy Spirit or by obligation? Pray for genuine spiritual renewal.
 5. **Prepare for His Return:** Live this week as if Jesus were returning on Sunday. What would you change about your priorities, relationships, or habits?
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Memory Verse

Ephesians 2:8-9— "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Closing Activity

Testimony Time: If anyone in the group made a decision to accept Christ during the sermon (or feels prompted to do so now), give them an opportunity to share. Celebrate together and pray over them.

Group Prayer Focus:

- Pray for anyone questioning their salvation
 - Pray for genuine spiritual awakening in the church
 - Pray for readiness for Christ's return
 - Pray for boldness to share the true gospel with others
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Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to those who may be questioning their salvation—this is a good thing! Encourage them to settle the matter with certainty.
- Avoid legalism: emphasize that assurance comes from faith in Christ, not from perfect behavior.

- If someone wants to pray to receive Christ, lead them through the prayer from the sermon or use Romans 10:9-10.
- Consider following up individually with anyone who seems troubled or uncertain about their salvation.

Next Week Preview: The pastor mentioned providing a timeline for the return of Christ. Encourage group members to attend and come prepared with questions about end times.
