

Homework: study these parables this week; add them to your time of praying the Lord's prayer;

Parables readiness and being diligent:

Mark 13:34-37 contains Jesus' teachings about the importance of readiness for His return. Here are some questions that can help you to delve deeper into this passage and extract its meaning:

1. **Understanding the Parable:** What is the significance of the master's instructions to the servants in this parable?
2. **Identifying the Role:** Who do you think the master represents in this parable? What about the servants?
3. **The Theme of Readiness:** Why do you think Jesus emphasizes the need for readiness and watchfulness in this passage?
4. **Application to Our Lives:** How can we apply the message of readiness and watchfulness to our own lives as followers of Christ?

Matthew 25:1-13 presents the parable of the ten virgins, which conveys a message about preparedness and readiness for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Here are some questions to help individuals glean insights from this passage:

1. **Understanding the Parable:** What is the main message or lesson that Jesus is conveying through the parable of the ten virgins?
2. **Symbolism of the Virgins and the Lamps:** What do the virgins and their lamps represent in this parable?
3. **The Importance of Readiness:** Why is readiness emphasized in this passage, and what does it mean to be prepared for the coming of the bridegroom?
4. **The Distinction Between the Wise and Foolish Virgins:** What sets the wise virgins apart from the foolish ones, and what qualities do they exhibit?
5. **The Significance of Oil:** What does the oil symbolize, and why is it crucial for the lamps to be filled with oil?
6. **The Consequence of Being Unprepared:** What happens to the foolish virgins who are not adequately prepared for the bridegroom's arrival?
7. **The Assurance of Salvation:** How does this parable relate to the assurance of salvation and the importance of persevering in faith until the end?
8. **Application to Our Lives:** How can we apply the message of this parable to our own lives as followers of Christ?

Connect with another disciple and talk about how you can put the Building Community Lesson together with the idea of readiness and form an action plan, something you can help each other do.

Building Community: Message Notes

What was Jesus Mission? Luke 19:10; 9:2,4

What is God's Vision for His people? (Community) Genesis 12:2-3

What is Community?

A unified body of individuals: such as: A group people with common interests, characteristic, or policy, gathered together for mutual benefit, where persons in that group can derive pleasure, meaning and purpose

Kingdom is Community

What is my "why" when it comes to building community?

Story of St. Patrick - a slave of the Irish who escaped after 6 years of slavery only to return later and preach the gospel and making disciples of Jesus. Ref: Let Me Die In Ireland - David Bercot

Am I motivated by love? Do I treasure kingdom?

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 - Matthew 13:44-45

A Story (allegory) to warn and motivate us: 2 Kings 6:24 - 7:11

God is God in the story, We can also put Jesus in that spot. The king of Aram - Ben Haddad is the devil, our enemy. The people under siege in Israel - the world. And the Lepers, well that is us.

- Jesus had had victory over the enemy. God has scattered our enemy without us even lifting a finger. "While we were still powerless Christ died for the ungodly."
- The world has been saved but like the people in the story they are still living in fear, impoverished, hungry, lost, living lives in the most horrid and demoralizing ways, and they have no idea they are saved.
- We are the lepers and most of us are moving from tent to tent eating and drinking; having our fill, enjoying the favor of God and hoarding its treasure. Like the lepers we need to realize that we need to go and tell the world they have been saved and that God has done this wondrous thing. Remember they said to themselves; "9 Then they said to each other, "What we're doing is not right. This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. If we wait until daylight, punishment will overtake us. Let's go at once and report this to the royal palace."
- The daylight they spoke of; the Day that is coming; is the return of Jesus.

This story, allegorically, can be a warning that we need to be about building kingdom.

A parable to help us and admonish us to be ready and active in our faith.

Luke 12:35-40

What does readiness for the Son of Man consist of? What is this alertness? This wakefulness? And how is it degraded? Here are some of the factors.

Things to contemplate:

1. **Avoiding sin.** Sin is not cost-free for the disciple, since it can dull our spiritual awareness. Yes, he will forgive, but self-indulgent moral compromise dulls us. It prevents us from walking closely with him and being spiritually alert, from being sensitive to his voice. When you sin, repent immediately!
2. **Prayer**, time communing with Jesus, is necessary so that we remain spiritually alert, spiritually awake.
3. **The Word.** Regular reading of the Scriptures keeps us alert. It is cleansing. Jesus said, "You are clean because of the word I have spoken to you" (John 15:3).
4. **Beliefs** can affect our readiness. If our theological system tells us that Jesus can't come imminently, then we tend to relax. The text tells us, "the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him" (Luke 12:40b). If you don't think that it is probable that Jesus will come in your lifetime, then you are extremely vulnerable to being taken by surprise, if he were to return contrary to your doctrinal timeline.