

You Are Called

Week 5 Devotional

Day 1

Reading: Matthew 25:1–13

Devotional

Jesus begins Matthew 25 with a call to readiness. The issue was not that all ten virgins were waiting in the wrong place. They were all waiting for the same bridegroom. They all had lamps. They all looked like they were prepared from the outside. But only five had what they needed when the moment came.

Spiritual readiness is not just about appearing religious or being near spiritual things. It is about living with a heart that is attentive to God. Sometimes we are so busy being busy that we cannot hear God whisper. We can be present in church, involved in responsibilities, and surrounded by Christian activity, yet still be spiritually running on fumes.

The oil in the parable reminds us of the inner life that must be tended: prayer, trust, obedience, worship, and dependence on the Holy Spirit. No one else can maintain that for you. Others can encourage you, pray for you, and walk with you, but they cannot be ready for you. Readiness means you are not just getting through the day. You are asking, "Lord, how can I be faithful today while I wait for You?"

Application

Reflection: How many times do you move through your day so busy with responsibilities that you miss time with God?

Action: Set aside a quiet moment today, even if it is only five minutes, to pray and listen without rushing.

Prayer: Father, help me stay spiritually awake. Teach me to wait faithfully, listen carefully, and live each day ready for You. Amen.

Day 2

Reading: Matthew 25:14–18

Devotional

The master in Jesus' parable does not give every servant the same amount, but he does give every servant something. That is important. The question is not whether you have been entrusted with anything. You have. The question is whether you recognize it.

Every Christian has a calling. Your calling is not limited to a church position, a ministry title, or standing on a platform. Your calling includes your home, your job, your school, your friendships, your resources, your opportunities, and your daily responsibilities. Sometimes we miss our calling because we only see the ordinary. You may think, "I am just going to work," "I am just raising kids," "I am just going to school," or "I am just paying bills." But God sees more. He sees the people you influence. He sees the conversations you have. He sees the way you serve, lead, encourage, forgive, give, and pray.

The talents in the parable were money, but the principle reaches wider. Whatever God has placed in your hands is meant to be managed for His glory. Your time is not accidental. Your relationships are not random. Your abilities are not merely for personal success. They are entrusted gifts.

Faithfulness begins when you stop comparing what you have with what someone else has and start asking, "Lord, what do You want me to do with what You have given me?"

Application

Reflection: What kind of responsibilities has God placed in your hands right now?

Action: Write down one area of influence you have today, such as family, work, school, or a friendship. Ask God how you can honor Him there.

Prayer: Lord, open my eyes to what You have entrusted to me. Help me stop overlooking ordinary places where You want me to be faithful. Amen.

Day 3

Reading: Matthew 25:19–23

Devotional

The first two servants received different amounts, but they received the same praise. One brought back five more talents, and the other brought back two more. The master did not criticize the second servant for producing less than the first. He praised both because both were faithful with what they had been given. This is freeing. God is not asking you to live someone else's calling. He is not measuring your faithfulness by comparing your life to another person's life. He is looking at what He has entrusted to you and how you are using it.

Multiplication can happen when encouragement spreads through a family, when prayer strengthens someone's faith, when generosity meets a need, when a conversation points someone to Jesus, or when your leadership creates peace instead of pressure. Faithfulness often looks small before it looks fruitful. A parent loving children patiently. A worker serving with integrity. A student honoring Christ in a difficult environment. A believer praying when no one sees. These may not feel impressive, but in God's kingdom, faithfulness is never wasted.

The reward in the parable is not merely more responsibility. It is joy: "Enter into the joy of your master." Faithful servants discover that using life for God's glory leads to deeper joy than using life only for self.

Application

Reflection: How many opportunities do you have each week to bless someone, encourage someone, or serve someone in Jesus' name?

Action: Choose one responsibility today and do it intentionally "as unto the Lord," with a heart of worship instead of resentment.

Prayer: Jesus, help me be faithful with what You have given me. Use my time, words, work, and relationships to multiply Your goodness. Amen.

Day 4

Reading: Matthew 25:24–30

Devotional

The third servant's problem was not that he had less than the others. His problem was that he did nothing with what he had. Fear shaped his view of the master, and that fear led to inaction. A wrong view of God can cause you to bury your calling. If you see God as cruel, impossible to please, or waiting for you to fail, you may avoid risk, avoid obedience, and avoid service. But God is not honored when His people hide what He has given them.

The servant tried to present his decision as caution, but the master called it laziness. Sometimes what we call "waiting" is actually avoidance. Sometimes what we call "being careful" is fear. Sometimes what we call "I do not have much to offer" is an excuse to stay buried. God is not asking you to do everything. He is asking you to do something with what He has placed in your hands. You may not feel gifted enough, experienced enough, bold enough, or knowledgeable enough. But faithfulness starts with obedience, not confidence.

You have been entrusted with time, opportunities, abilities, relationships, and spiritual gifts. They were not given so they could be buried. They were given so they could bless others and glorify God.

Application

Reflection: What kind of fear most often keeps you from using what God has given you?

Action: Take one small step of obedience today: encourage someone, pray with someone, serve someone, or say yes to something God has been putting on your heart.

Prayer: Father, forgive me for the times I have buried what You gave me. Replace fear with trust, and help me take faithful steps of obedience. Amen.

Day 5

Reading: Matthew 25:31–46

Devotional

Jesus connects faithfulness to how we respond to people in need. The sheep are not praised because they performed religious acts for attention. They are praised because their faith showed up in compassion. They saw needs and responded. Many people can do kind things, and those things matter. But Christian service carries a deeper purpose. It points beyond human kindness to the love and mercy of Christ.

This passage does not teach that we earn salvation by good works. Rather, it shows that saving faith produces visible fruit. When the grace of God changes a person, that person becomes more sensitive to the needs around them. The Holy Spirit teaches us to notice people we might otherwise ignore. Sometimes the need is physical: food, clothing, help, shelter, or care. Sometimes the need is emotional: encouragement, patience, presence, or prayer. Sometimes the need is spiritual: truth, hope, forgiveness, and the gospel. Faithfulness is not only about managing tasks. It is about seeing people.

When you serve others in Jesus' name, you are not just doing a good deed. You are honoring Christ Himself.

Application

Reflection: How many people around you might be carrying burdens you have not noticed yet?

Action: Look for one need today and respond in a simple way: send a message, offer help, pray with someone, or give encouragement in Jesus' name.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, give me eyes to see people the way You see them. Help me serve others with compassion and point them to Your love. Amen.