

Title: Keep Watch. Be Ready Today. **Scripture:** Matthew 25:1–13

Main Idea: Jesus calls us to be ready for His return. Righteousness cannot be borrowed, and it must be practiced today.

1. The Day and Hour Are Unknown

Explanation: Jesus makes it clear that no one knows the time of His return—only the Father. In the same way, none of us know the day of our death. Either our life will end, or Christ will return, and both lead to standing before Him.

Truth: Speculation about the timing of His return distracts from the command to be ready for it.

Challenge: Stop worrying about when it will happen. Live ready today. Keep your lamp burning by walking with Him daily—pray, serve, and stay faithful.

2. You Cannot Borrow Righteousness

Explanation: When the groom finally arrived, the foolish bridesmaids were unprepared and tried to borrow oil from the wise—but they couldn't. The time for preparation had passed.

Truth: You can't borrow someone else's faith. Salvation is personal. You won't stand right before God because of your spouse's, parent's, or grandparent's faith. You must personally know Jesus Christ as Lord.

Challenge: Stop depending on others' walk with God. Confess your sins and trust in Christ yourself. If you've done that—live like it.

3. Live Rightly Before God Today

Explanation: Readiness means obedience now. Trust is not just saying "I believe," it's handing God the keys when you don't know all the details.

Truth: Obedience today is the proof of true faith. Lamps stay lit through daily trust and surrender.

Challenge: Whatever sin or disobedience has dimmed your light—leave it behind. Forgive, confess, give, or serve where God is calling. Live rightly now, not tomorrow.

Reflection: You don't know when your life will end or when Christ will return. Be ready. If the door were to close tonight, would you be found in Christ? If not, call on Him today. Romans 10:9—"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Devotion 1 – The Day and Hour Are Unknown

Scripture: Matthew 25:13 – “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

Reflection: It’s easy to live as if tomorrow is guaranteed. We plan trips, careers, and retirements, but Jesus reminds us we don’t even know if we’ll see the next sunrise. The wise bridesmaids in the parable were ready because they lived in a state of expectation. The foolish ones assumed they had more time. When the moment came, it was too late to prepare. Every day is a gift and a new opportunity to live faithfully for Christ, not someday—but today.

Challenge: Start your day tomorrow by saying, “Lord, if this is my last day, let me live it for You.” Then act like it—love someone intentionally, pray with someone, or forgive the person you’ve been avoiding. Keep your lamp burning.

Devotion 2 – You Cannot Borrow Righteousness

Scripture: Romans 14:12 – “So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.”

Reflection: Faith cannot be shared like a spare key—it must be your own. When the unprepared bridesmaids asked to borrow oil, they learned that righteousness isn’t transferable. Your spouse’s faith, your parent’s prayers, or your church attendance can’t make you right with God. Only a personal relationship with Jesus can. The door was shut in the parable, not because the others were cruel, but because preparation is something each heart must do individually before it’s too late.

Challenge: Take time today to reaffirm your own faith. Don’t rely on family heritage or church involvement. Ask yourself honestly, “Do I personally know Jesus?” If the answer is uncertain, settle that today. Pray, confess, and make Him Lord of your life.

Devotion 3 – Live Rightly Before God Today

Scripture: James 1:22 – “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

Reflection: Living rightly isn’t about perfection—it’s about trust and obedience. Jesus doesn’t ask for understanding of every detail; He asks for faith to follow when He calls. Too many Christians get stuck waiting for clarity when God is simply waiting for obedience. The wise live ready by walking daily with Him, keeping their lamps burning through prayer, service, generosity, and repentance.

Challenge: What is one thing God has clearly called you to do that you’ve delayed? Trust Him enough to take that step today. Hand Him the keys, even if you don’t know where the road leads. Obedience today is the evidence of true readiness.