

Preparation

Ten Virgins, Rich Fool, Faithful and Evil Servant

Introduction

1. Jesus emphasized the importance of being prepared.
2. God has given us time to prepare ourselves:
 - a. 1 Pet. 3:9
 - b. 1 Thess. 5:1-6
3. Are we using God's gift of time to prepare for Christ's coming?

Discussion

I. The Ten Virgins: Matt. 25:1-13

- A. Points to note:
 1. All ten virgins knew that the bridegroom was coming.
 2. Though they were expecting Him, they did not know He was coming.
 3. The foolish virgins had time to prepare (vs. 5), but they did not.
 4. When they heard that He was finally coming, they tried to get ready, but it was too late.
 5. Only those who had been prepared all along were able to enter in with the bridegroom.
- B. Are you ready for the Bridegroom?
 1. We all know that the Lord is coming, but we do not know when He is coming (1 Thess. 5:2).
 2. We need to make our lives ready.
 - a. We must have prepared enough oil before He arrives.
 - b. Repentance of sins, good works, spiritual growth.
 3. If we wait till we see Him coming, we will not have time in the last minute to prepare.
 4. We must be ready, and we must be watching for Him, lest He keep us sleeping and unprepared.

II. The Rich Fool: Luke 12:16-21

- A. Points to note:
 1. The rich fool had everything a person would want in this life.
 2. He was rich, he had an abundance, even had more than he needed.
 3. He was able to be comfortable for the rest of his life.
 4. But he was still unprepared, for he was not rich toward God.
- B. Are we rich toward God?
 1. To become rich requires the use of time, energy, resources, and sacrifice.
 2. Are we using these things to become rich toward God? (1 Pet. 4:10).
 3. People of the world think that we work in this life to care for our own comforts.
 4. Rather, our laboring must before the Lord. For only when we are working for the Lord will we truly trust Him to care for our needs (Luke 12:22-31).
 5. If we are too busy serving ourselves, then we will have nothing in the Lord when He comes.

III. The Faithful and the Evil Servant: Luke 12:35-40

- A. Points to note:
 - 1. The faithful servant is the one who serves as if his master is present.
 - 2. He is diligent to use the time and resources allotted to him by his master.
 - 3. The evil servant is the one who believes he has all the time in the world to do whatever he wants.
 - 4. He does not regard his master's wishes until it is absolutely necessary, but then it is too late.

- B. Are we being faithful servants?
 - 1. This parable is talking about people who are already servants in the kingdom.
 - 2. Evil servants feel that they have time before they need to get to work (vs. 45-46).
 - a. "I have time to relax a little before I need to do anything."
 - b. Vs. 47: I know what I need to do, but I'll do it later.
 - c. Vs. 48: I don't know what I need to do, but I'll figure it out later.
 - 3. The faithful servant does his work immediately, for he knows the master could come at any moment.

Conclusion

- 1. Being prepared is not a matter of ability, but a matter of desire and diligence.
- 2. It will be a sad day for those who know the Lord is coming, but have not prepared themselves.
- 3. Do we understand the value of time? Whatever time we have is a precious gift from God.
- 4. Are we preparing ourselves now so that when the bridegroom comes our lamps will be burning and we will be ready to receive Him?
- 5. Are we striving to be rich toward God before it is too late?

*May, 2007
By David Phillips*