



**“Jesus Is Coming Soon”**

**1Thessalonians 5:1-11**

1Thes. 5:1-11 - "But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, Peace and safety! then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."

# The Early Disciples Longed For The Return Of Christ

- 1Cor. 16:22 - “If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come!”
- 2Peter 3:13-14 - “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless”
- Rev. 22:20 - “He who testifies to these things says, Surely I am coming quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”

# The Parable Of The Doorkeeper

- Luke 12:35-38 - “Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; 36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. 38 And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.”

# The Parable Of The Doorkeeper

- The Lord is coming back, and the actual time of His return is unknown and could occur at any moment.
- Steadfast vigilance and determined focus are required

# The Parable Of The Doorkeeper

- Heb. 6:11 - “And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end”
- Phil. 1:27 - “Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel”
- 2John 8 - “Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.”

# The Parable Of The Steward

- Luke 12:41-46 - “Then Peter said to Him, Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people? 42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? 43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. 45 But if that servant says in his heart, My master is delaying his coming, and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.”

# The Parable Of The Steward

- The Lord left His servants with duties to perform as His stewards and representatives while He was away; we are those stewards.
- Most people, including some disciples, believe they have plenty of time.

# The Parable Of The Steward

- Heb. 10:32-39 - “But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: 33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; 34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. 35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

# The Parable Of The Virgins

- Matt. 25:1-13 - “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight a cry was heard: Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him! 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us! 12 But he answered and said, Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you. 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”

# The Parable Of The Virgins

- Some made preparations in advance for a longer wait than expected. Others made preparations, but not for the long term.
- Our service to the Lord is a lifelong marathon, not a short term sprint
- The foolish five could not borrow from the others because everyone must face the Lord on their own record

# The Parable Of The Virgins

- 2Cor. 5:10 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
- Rom. 14:12 - “So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”

# The Parable Of The Virgins

- So many temporarily comfort themselves by choosing to believe they can work out their salvation later
  - Luke 13:23-27 - “Then one said to Him, Lord, are there few who are saved? And He said to them, 24 Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open for us, and He will answer and say to you, I do not know you, where you are from, 26 then you will begin to say, We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets. 27 But He will say, I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.”

# The Parable Of The Virgins

- A good start doesn't ensure a faithful finish
  - Matt. 13:20-22 - “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. 22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.”
  - Rev. 2:10 - “...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

# The Parable Of The Talents

- Luke 19:11 - “Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.”
- Matt. 25:14-30
- Two servants are rewarded for faithful effort. The one servant that was punished had made no effort, in spite of knowing what was expected of him.

# The Parable Of The Talents

- We are called to wholehearted effort, not to quantitative results. God is able to take our five loaves and two fishes and feed a multitude
  - 2Cor. 9:7-10 - “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written: He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever. 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness”

# “Jesus Is Coming Soon”

- Christ’s return will be sudden and unexpected
- We must be prepared at every moment of our lives.
- We must endure for the long term, probably for a lifetime.
- We must never take when we think might a brief trip back into sin.
- We must work for eternity while living here in the temporary
- We must be watching and waiting, hoping for the return of our Savior.
- Do not allow your view of your eternal goal in heaven be distracted by a temporary problem in the present.