

Readiness

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Content

God's people are exhorted to be ready for:

- 1. Warfare (Physical and Spiritual)**
- 2. Death**
- 3. The second coming of Jesus Christ.**
- 4. The future judgment.**

Readiness – It is a state of preparedness for future needs or happenings, whether predictable or uncertain.

God through Jesus Christ prepared all that was necessary for the salvation of sinners.

Parable of the 10 Virgins

Matt. 25: 1- 13

- 1 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 “Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.
- 3 “For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,
- 4 but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps.
- 5 “Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and *began* to sleep.
- 6 “But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet *him*.’

Parable of the 10 Virgins

Matt. 25: 1- 13 cont.

- 7 “Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.
- 8 “The foolish said to the prudent, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’
- 9 “But the prudent answered, ‘No, there will not be enough for us and you *too*; go instead to the dealers and buy *some* for yourselves.’
- 10 “And while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut.
- 11 “Later the other virgins also came, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open up for us.’
- 12 “But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’
- 13 “Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

Parable of the 10 Virgins

I. The People—vv. 1–5

A. **The story**—v. 1. A parable to teach us readiness.

B. **The symbols**—vv. 2–4

1. **The foolish.** They took no extra oil, thinking that they had plenty.

2. **The wise.** They were prepared with an extra supply of oil. They did not depend upon past resources.

C. **The sleeping**—v. 5. While waiting for the wedding, they all slept. The wise went to sleep prepared; the foolish, unprepared.

Parable of the 10 Virgins

2. The Plan—vv. 6–9

- A. **Preparation**—vv. 6–7. “The bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.” They trimmed their lamps. We, as Christians, must trim our spiritual lives in readiness for His coming.
- B. **Pleading**—v. 8. The foolish asked the wise to give them some of their oil. They were dependent on others for entrance to the wedding feast. Each person must have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- C. **Personal**—v. 9. The wise told the foolish to go and buy oil for themselves. No one can accept Christ for you. Each person must be born again.

Parable of the 10 Virgins

3. The Problem—vv. 10–12

A. **Problem**—v. 10. “**The door was shut.**” God gave the people in Noah’s day, time to prepare—Gen. 6: 3. Some day the door will be closed.

B. **Plea**—v. 11. “**Open to us.**” The wise could not open the door. Only Christ can open the door.

C. **Punishment**—v. 12. “**I know you not.**” Only those who are born again will gain entrance.

Parable of the 10 Virgins

4. The Preparation—v. 13

Prepare by watching!

A. Watch your character.

2 Peter 1: 5-8

5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge,

6 and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness,

7 and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.

8 For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Parable of the 10 Virgins

4. The Preparation—v. 13

Prepare by watching!

B. Watch your consecration.

Rom. 12: 1-2

1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.*

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

God wants full surrender, full dedication.

Parable of the 10 Virgins

4. The Preparation—v. 13

Prepare by watching!

C. Watch your companions.

2 Cor. 15: 33

33 Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

- i. You are known by your associations.
- ii. Choose Christian friends.

God has prepared everything for the salvation of sinners

John 14: 1-6

1 “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

3 “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

4 “And you know the way where I am going.”

5 Thomas *said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?”

6 Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

God has prepared everything for the salvation of sinners

Matt. 22: 4

4 “Again he sent out other slaves saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast.” ’

Luke 14: 16–17

16 But He said to him, “A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many;

17 and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for everything is ready now.’

1 Peter 1: 5

5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Readiness for War

A. Against earthly enemies

Jeremiah 51: 11–12

11 Sharpen the arrows, fill the quivers! The LORD has aroused the spirit of the kings of the Medes, Because His purpose is against Babylon to destroy it; For it is the vengeance of the LORD, vengeance for His temple.

12 Lift up a signal against the walls of Babylon; Post a strong guard, Station sentries, Place men in ambush! For the LORD has both purposed and performed What He spoke concerning the inhabitants of Babylon.

Joel 3: 9–10

9 Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up!

10 Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, “I am a mighty man.”

Readiness for War

B. Against spiritual forces of evil

Ephesians 6: 11–18

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

God's people should always be ready:

A. To face temptation

Psalm 39: 1

1 I said, "I will guard my ways That I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle While the wicked are in my presence."

Matthew 26: 41

41 "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

God's people should always be ready:

A. To face temptation

1 Cor. 10: 12

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

1 Peter 5: 8

8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

God's people should always be ready:

B. To face death

Genesis 46: 30

30 Then Israel said to Joseph, “Now let me die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive.”

Acts 21: 13

13 Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

God's people should always be ready:

C. To serve

Numbers 8: 11

11 “Aaron then shall present the Levites before the LORD as a wave offering from the sons of Israel, that they may qualify to perform the service of the LORD.

John 9: 4

4 “We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

God's people should always be ready:

C. To serve

Ephesians 4: 11–12

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

1 Peter 1: 13

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

God's people should always be ready:

D. To speak the truth

2 Tim. 4: 2

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

1 Peter 3: 15

15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

God's people should always be ready:

E. For the second coming of Jesus Christ

Matthew 25: 13

13 “Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

1 Thess. 5: 8

8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

1 John 2: 28

28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

All humanity should be ready:

F. For future judgment

Luke 12: 47–48

47 “And that slave who knew his master’s will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, **48** but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

1 Peter 4: 5

5 but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.