

Matthew 25:1-13

Prepared to Celebrate

Main Point:

Christ's delay in returning should not cause us to become slack and indifferent towards him. Instead, it should prompt us to be all the more prepared to celebrate His arrival by devoting ourselves to His purposes for the world.

Review from last week:

Jesus will return when He returns!

Jesus's return will be sudden and unexpected

Jesus expects His followers to be always be ready

Parable of the Ten Maidens:

Problems with the standard interpretation

- (1) The assumption that the maidens expected the bridegroom to be delayed.
- (2) The unwarranted response of the bridegroom to the maiden's lack of preparation for his delay.

A different interpretive angle:

- (1) Bearing the torch for the bridegroom reveals the torchbearer's devotion to the bridegroom and eagerness celebrate His wedding.
- (2) The key difference between the wise and foolish maidens is devotion vs. indifference to the bridegroom.

- (3) The bridegroom's delay exposes the fault line between the heart-attitudes of the wise and foolish maidens.

Application: How do we “watch” and prepare for celebrating the arrival of Christ, our bridegroom?

- (1) By devoting our lives to Christ as our “audience of one” (2 Cor. 5:9; 1 Peter 1:3-9).
- (2) By devoting our lives to Christ's “interests” (Phil. 2:21; Matt. 24:16; 28:16-20).

Questions for Family-Life Groups:

- 1) Why were maidens sent out to wait for the bridegroom? What is the significance of being a “torch-bearer”?
- 2) What do the preparations of the wise maidens and the lack of preparedness of the foolish maidens tell us about their respective attitudes towards the bridegroom?
- 3) What does it mean for you to live for the “audience of one”? (2 Cor. 5:9)
- 4) How do the “interests” of your life align with Christ's “interests”? (Phil. 2:21)
- 5) How are you keeping the “torch” of your life burning bright with devotion to Jesus? What, if anything, is hindering your devotion to him?