



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Here Comes the Bridegroom!

Focus Verse: Matthew 25:13 - Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Lesson Text: Matthew 25:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Peter 3:3-4

Truth About God: Jesus is coming soon.

Truth For My Life: I will live with expectation for Jesus' soon coming.

When dealing with the approaching Bridegroom, we must live our lives expectantly, or unfortunately we will be lost. We must look toward the day of Jesus' return with longing and preparedness, for no one knows the time of the Bridegroom's coming. Let us live our lives looking for the return of Christ so we may be among the wise and enter the Marriage Supper with our Bridegroom.

The church is constantly asking, "**When is Jesus coming back?**" But the world is asking, "**Is Jesus coming back?**" Jesus promised He would return again once He was taken up into Heaven. We can trust His promise, even after two thousand years of watching for Him and sadly watching people abandon their faith. Rather than be discouraged, we would be excited that we are closer to the Rapture than we have ever been.

Skeptics will question the truth of Jesus' return. They don't believe Jesus is coming back at all. This doubtful belief is not new. It lived in the apostles' day, for we read in 2 Peter 3:3-4. This misunderstanding of God's timing leads to a lack of faith and can lead to some Christians abandoning their faith altogether. Peter knew that no matter how much proof or how many signs they saw, some would not accept that Jesus is coming back. Their minds are made up.

The promise of Jesus' return is peppered throughout Scripture. But even if Jesus only once promised He was coming back for His church. He will come back. Our hope as children of God hinges on this blessed hope. Consider the pattern we see in the Word of God. Some estimate a million people were alive in Noah's day, but only he and his family of eight were saved. He preached that a flood was coming, and it came just as God promised.

The Old Testament prophets were in the minority compared to their audience and the other prophets who promised peace and prosperity, even amid Israel's rampant sin. But God brought the nations of Assyria and Babylon against Israel and Judah respectively because He promised to judge sin, no matter how many people disbelieved or disagreed.

Past promises fulfilled are simply fuel for faith that God will fulfill future promises. Paul wrote it right concerning Abraham: "He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform" (Romans 4:20-21).

Since only Jesus knows the day and hour He is returning, He gave us several stories to help us live while we wait and watch. The parable of the bridesmaids in Matthew 25 is such a story. In the passage, ten bridesmaids were awaiting the bridegroom's return for his bride so they could all go into the wedding celebration together. The bridesmaids did not know when the bridegroom was returning. Five bridesmaids were ready; five were not. The tragedy of Jesus' story is that five bridesmaids ran out of time after they had so much time to get ready. They were frantic. They banged on the door and begged the bridegroom to let them in, but he would not open the door. It was not because He was unkind or because they were wicked, but just because they were not ready. **Jesus' parable sent chills into His audience because there will come a day when people have waited too long or wasted too much time, and they are not ready for the coming of the Lord.**

There will always be two kinds of bridesmaids in life, even in church. We cannot let those who live unprepared keep us from being ready for Jesus' return. We want everyone to be saved, but we cannot make anyone ready except ourselves.

Live expecting Jesus' return. He is coming back.