

“Jesus Is Coming Soon”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. 1Thes. 5:1-11
- B. The early disciples longed for the return of Christ
 - 1. 1Cor. 16:22; 2Peter 3:13-14; Rev. 22:20
- C. An examination of four parables of the return of the Lord

I. THE PARABLE OF THE DOORKEEPER

- A. Luke 12:35-38
- B. The Lord is coming back, and the actual time of His return is unknown and could occur at any moment.
 - 1. Every disciple is the doorkeeper of his own life; he must be alert to prevent the Adversary from stealing away his reward
 - 2. What message would a guard communicate when master returned to find him sleeping and the house robbed?
- C. Steadfast vigilance and determined focus are required
 - 3. Heb. 6:1; Phil. 1:27; 2John 8

II. THE PARABLE OF THE STEWARD

- A. Luke 12:41-46
- B. The Lord left His servants with duties to perform as His stewards and representatives while He was away; we are those stewards.
 - 1. The temptation arises after a while for the servants to ease up and indulge in selfish, self-destructive behavior when the Lord does not return as soon as expected.
 - 2. Most people, including some disciples, believe they have plenty of time.
 - 3. When we begin to feel that the coming of the Lord is far off or that He may never come at all, it is at that moment that we have the greatest need for endurance - Heb. 10:32-39
- C. Notice there is peril, not merely embarrassment, for the careless steward.

III. THE PARABLE OF THE VIRGINS

- A. Matt. 25:1-13 - The young women represent people anticipating the coming of the Lord, that is, members of the church waiting for the Lord to claim His bride and take her home to heaven
 - 1. Some made preparations in advance for a longer wait than expected. Others made preparations, but not for the long term.
 - 2. The sudden coming of the bridegroom is the sudden return of Christ.
 - 3. The foolish five were prepared in the past, but they now realize they only made preparations for a short wait.
 - 4. Our service to the Lord is a lifelong marathon, not a short term sprint
 - 5. The foolish five could not borrow from the others because everyone must face the Lord on their own record - 2Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:12

6. In the Judgment, we cannot borrow faith or righteousness from the strong members of the congregation, and attempting last minute preparations will not work
- B. So many temporarily comfort themselves by choosing to believe they can work out their salvation later - Luke 13:23-27
 1. "Lord, I was baptized. I went to services when I had time, especially at the beginning."
 2. A good start doesn't ensure a faithful finish - Matt. 13:20-22; Rev. 2:10

IV. THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- A. Luke 19:11; Matt. 25:14-30
- B. 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.
 1. Notice that the basis of Judgment was not on the quantitative amount each servant produced, but on their motivation and effort
 2. We are called to wholehearted effort, not to quantitative results
 3. God is able to take our five loaves and two fishes and feed a multitude
 4. 2Cor. 9:7-10

Conclusion: These are the facts:

- A. Christ's return will be sudden and unexpected
- B. We must be prepared at every moment of our lives.
- C. We must endure for the long term, probably for a lifetime.
- D. We must never take when we think might a brief trip back into sin.
- E. We must work for eternity while living here in the temporary
- F. We must be watching and waiting, hoping for the return of our Savior.
- G. Do not allow your view of your eternal goal in heaven be distracted by a temporary problem in the present.
 1. Moses allowed himself to be distracted by the temporary thirst and fickle clamor of the people from his goal of reaching the promised land