



Deathbed Confessions

Matthew 25:1-13

Deathbed Confessions

- There are several crises in life that move people to consider their lives and the choices they have made
 - Ecc. 12:1 - “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, I have no pleasure in them”

Deathbed Confessions

- Can one be saved in the twilight days of life?
- The parable of the vineyard workers
 - Matt. 20:1-16
- Who decides?
- What is taught in scripture about those who plan for a last minute conversion?

When Is Our Eleventh Hour?

- No one is promised a long life
 - Prov. 27:1 - “Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.”
- Wealth and success are no assurance of longevity
 - Luke 12:16-21

When Is Our Eleventh Hour?

- Wicked people engage in behaviors that can hasten death
 - Psalm 55:23 - “But You, O God, shall bring them down to the pit of destruction; Bloodthirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; But I will trust in You.”

When Is Our Eleventh Hour?

- Prov. 9:11 - “For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you.”
- Prov. 10:27 - “The fear of the LORD prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.”
- Prov. 21:16 - “A man who wanders from the way of understanding Will rest in the assembly of the dead.”

When Is Our Eleventh Hour?

- Ecc. 7:17 - “Do not be overly wicked, Nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time?”
- Eph. 6:2-3 - “Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: 3 that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

When Is Our Eleventh Hour?

- The sexually promiscuous risk diseases
 - Prov. 6:32-33 - “Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul. 33 Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away.”

When Is Our Eleventh Hour?

- Lifetime sinners are lulled into complacency
 - Psalm 73:12-20 - “Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches. 13 Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence. 14 For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning. 15 If I had said, I will speak thus, Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. 16 When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me- 17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. 18 Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. 19 Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. 20 As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.”

When Is Our Eleventh Hour?

- The preservation of life is not in human hands
- We do not know what our lives will end, or whether we will become a victim of an accident or disease
- Or when the Lord will come in Judgment
 - Matt. 25:1-13

When Is Our Eleventh Hour?

- We cannot know when the Lord will return
 - Matt. 24:42-51
 - Note that the wicked slave is called a hypocrite, a person putting on an act. Planning to obey the Gospel later is living as a fraud.

How Can A Procrastinator Repent?

- God judges the hearts and actions of people, not their claims
 - Matt. 7:16-23 - “You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them. 21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? 23 And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

How Can A Procrastinator Repent?

- Repentance is regretting the sins one committed, not regretting the fact that he will soon face the consequences of the sins he committed
 - 2Cor. 7:10 - “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”
- How can one profess sorrow for what he purposes to do now and plans to renounce later?

How Can A Procrastinator Repent?

- Repentance is changing one's attitude about sin and manifesting that change in his life
 - 2Cor. 7:11 - "For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter."

How Can A Procrastinator Repent?

- This plan creates an unresolvable inconsistency that must devolve into self-deceit. Either one is being dishonest about sin now, or he is planning to be dishonest about repentance later
 - Rom. 6:1-2 - “What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”

How Can A Procrastinator Repent?

- The desire to change isn't there now and cannot be trusted to be there later
 - James 4:4-10 - "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously? 6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble. 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

The Value Of A Godly Life

- Too many people have the foolishly uninformed belief that living a righteous life is miserable
 - Psalm 16:11 - “You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

The Value Of A Godly Life

- God's instructions make life better
 - For our good - Deut. 10:12-13
 - See good in life - Psalm 34:11-14
 - Long, peaceful life - Prov. 3:1-2
 - Profitable for all things in this life and for the life to come - 1Tim. 4:8
 - God watches over His people - Psalms 37:25

The Value Of A Godly Life

- Sinners not only reap what they plant
 - Gal. 6:7-8 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”
- They often reap more than they plant
 - Hosea 8:7 - “They sow the wind, And reap the whirlwind”

The Value Of A Godly Life

- Heb. 11:24-26 - “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.”

The Value Of A Godly Life

- Ecc. 11:9 - 12:1 - “Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. 10 Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth are vanity. 12:1 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, I have no pleasure in them.”