



Neglect of Duty

“The Parable of the Ten Virgins”

Matthew 25:13, 40 - “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. Therefore, be spiritually prepared by serving others, because as you do it to one of the least of these, you do it to Me.”

Introduction

In the days of Noah, the world was filled with wickedness, and humanity had turned away from God. Yet, in the midst of this darkness, God raised up Noah, a faithful servant, to carry out His divine plan. Noah’s obedience to God’s call became the means through which God would preserve life and bring about His promise to bless all nations. **Despite the corruption around him, Noah trusted God and worked to fulfill His purpose**, proving that **faithfulness in difficult times can lead to the fulfillment of God’s greater purpose.**

Similarly, in the Parable of the Ten Virgins, Jesus emphasizes the importance of spiritual readiness. The ten virgins, symbolizing believers, were waiting for the bridegroom (representing Christ). Five of them were wise and prepared, bringing extra oil for their lamps, while the other five were foolish and neglected to do so. When the bridegroom arrived unexpectedly, the unprepared virgins were left outside, missing the celebration. This parable serves as a reminder to believers that spiritual preparation is essential. **Just as Noah was prepared for the coming flood, we too must be prepared for the return of Christ, keeping our faith alive and ready to meet Him at any moment.** **Matthew 24:37-39** – “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” **Be prepared to do what is necessary in the present moment.**

Are You Ready and Watchful?

Learn the Three Signs of Spiritual Preparedness

Flame That Never Fades

A **Revelation 3:15-16 NLT** - “I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.”

Philippians 2:15 (NLT) – “So that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.”

Take away: God is calling His people to burn with passion, not be lukewarm. **Your life is a light meant to shine brightly, reflecting His goodness for all to see.** In this season, He is anointing you to be a beacon of hope, drawing others to His glory through your good works. Stand firm—your light is meant to bring glory to God.

An Overflowing Supply of Oil

A **Matthew 25:4 (NLT)** – “But the wise ones took oil in jars along with their lamps.”

Luke 11:33-34 (NLT) – “No one lights a lamp and then hides it or puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house. Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when it is unhealthy, your body is filled with darkness.”

Take away: The verses call believers to stay spiritually prepared and filled with God's light, ensuring our lives shine brightly for others to see, reflecting His truth and readiness for His return.

Vigilance in the Waiting

A **Matthew 25:13 (NLT)** - “So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.”

1 Thessalonians 5:6 (NLT) - “So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.”

Luke 21:36 (NLT) - “Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.”

Take away: Stay awake and vigilant, for the Lord's return is near. Keep your heart aligned with His will, stay alert, and pray for strength to endure. Your readiness and faithfulness will be rewarded, for His coming is at hand.