



Series: Unexpected Messiah- The 11th Hour

Passage Matthew 25:1-13

Title: Ready for the Return of Jesus

Speaker: Pastor JC Cooper – 6/27/2021

Discussion Starter – How does Jesus' return impact your life today? What goes through your mind, and how has this sermon cause you to ponder the finality of this event for those who are not truly in the body of Christ?

The Parable of the Ten Virgins, (Matthew 25:1-13)

- In this parable, who do the 10 virgins represent and who is the bridegroom? Read Matthew 9:14-15.
- How is a common understanding of the elements and traditions of a Jewish marriage important to know to properly understand this parable? What were the three elements, when did they most often occur?
- How does Jesus illustrate the difference between the wise and foolish virgins?
- What does the oil in the lamp represent, and why is this so important to us as Christians in the church today?
- In what way do the foolish virgins represent "Fake Christians" or "Sunday Only Christians"? How would you define a "Sunday Only Christian"?
- What causes the "Fake Christians" to be deceived? What are some of the ways they convince themselves that they are ok? Read Colossians 2:20-23 and James 3:13-16. What additional insights do we gain from these passages?
- What differentiates the wise virgins from the foolish? How is this example represented in the church today? Read James 3:17. Contrast this to the previous verses of James 3:13-16.
- What makes us ready for Jesus' return? Describe what you are doing to be more prepared for Jesus' return. Read Ephesians 1:13-14. What additional understanding can be gathered from reading these verses?
- How can we be secure that we will make it into the wedding ceremony? What are some ways we can measure our walk and our relationship with Jesus now? Read Romans 8:5-11. Describe in your own words what this passage is relaying to you.
- Readiness Comes through a Relationship with Jesus. How is your relationship with Jesus? Read Matthew 7:21-23. What reminder are we given in this passage?
- What lesson do we learn from this story about the wise virgins not sharing their oil with the foolish virgins?
- Knowing now that the door is still open to the wedding celebration, what are some of the things the LORD has put on your heart to be more mindful of now? What things are you feeling a greater sense of urgency for now in you walk with God?