

THE TEN VIRGINS

Matthew 25:1-13

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Do you ever think about the end of the world? Why or why not?
- In what ways do you think a believer can or should prepare for God's judgment and the end of the world?

The Last Day, the End Times, Judgment Day, Christ's Second Coming...these are just some of the ways we refer to the end of the world. As humans, we'd really love to know the specifics about what will happen and when in those last days. But as Jesus's earthly ministry draws to a close, he is more concerned about our attitudes and behaviours. He tells the parable of the Ten Virgins to get the attention of believers and stress just how important it is that we are prepared, even in our waiting.

Listen: [The Ten Virgins](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- How are parables of judgment, like the Ten Virgins also a sign of God's grace? Why can believers take comfort from them?
- In his book *The Lord of Parables*, LeRoy Lawson makes this observation about how Jesus teaches and talks about the last day: "*He [Jesus] insists that his followers experience normal lives, living expectantly but without anxiety about tomorrow*" (p. 91). What does the parable of the Ten Virgins teach us about living expectantly? Is it easy for you to live without anxiety about Christ's return and God's judgment? Why or why not?
- In segment 3 hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee share that watching, or being prepared, for the Lord's coming means living our lives close to God and being faithful in our daily tasks. How have you been faithful today?
- In what ways does this parable help you live with the mystery of the last day? How does it help you talk with someone trying to decipher the Bible to figure out the timing of the last day? What could you say?

Related Passages

- **Matthew 25:14-46**
- **Matthew 24:36-44**
- **Matthew 5:13-16**
- **1 Thessalonians 5:1-6**
- **2 Peter 3:8-15**

Conclusion

Slowly read and reflect on the J.I. Packer quote that host Dave Bast shared at the conclusion of the episode:

“Think of each hour as God's gift to you to make the most and best of it. Keep short accounts with God. Live in the present. Gratefully enjoy its pleasures and work through its pains with God. Open all your life to the Lord Jesus. Spend time in his company, responding to his love. Say to yourself often that every day is one day nearer, and get on with what you know to be God's task for you here and now.”

(J.I.Packer, God's Words, InterVarsity Press, 1981, p.214)

Note the thoughts and emotions this quote stirs in you. Journal and pray about them.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/the-ten-virgins>

Printed on July 3, 2024