

Sermon Reflections

While We Wait • Matthew 25:1-30

Summary: Jesus is coming at any time, but we don't know when. What do we do while we wait?
How can we be faithful till the end?

1. Be ready and prepared (vv. 1-13)

- The Lord Jesus taught about the signs regarding the last time (Chapter 24). We know He will come, we do not know when, but we know it will be sudden so as to catch most people off guard. Now He is teaching us what to do while we wait: Be busy, be prepared and live in anticipation.
- What is the distinction between the wise bridesmaids and the foolish ones? (vv. 1-4)
- In this passage, what must the oil represent? Why is it that those who have it cannot give any to those who do not?
- How is a person supposed to “get oil” and be prepared for the coming of the Lord? Evidently some can think they are ready yet they are not. How can we know for certain that we are ready for His coming? How can you examine your own heart to be sure about your own soul? How can you be helpful to others regarding their preparedness?
- Pastor Zaman made reference to 2 Timothy 2:20-21. Discuss how that applies in this context.

2. Be Faithful and Fruitful (vv. 14-30)

- The master entrusted money to the servants in varying amounts. How does this relate to the way God gives gifts to His saints? Compare Matthew 25:15 and Romans 12:3.
- What is the significance of the words “at once” in verse 16? In what ways do you find that principle to be true, or not, in your own life when you consider the things that God has entrusted to you? If this leads you to a confession, what actions can you take to correct the situation?
- In v. 24 the servant with one talent harshly misjudges his master's character. List some ways that we as believers might “excuse ourselves” from being faithful servants based on the severity of God. Also, what are some ways that we might question the providence (wisdom, ‘fairness’) of God regarding the way He distributes gifts and responsibilities? What is the best cure for our misguided perceptions? See Exodus 34:6-7. What are ways we can keep this truth before us so as to improve our attitude?
- What are some ‘treasures’ that the Father has entrusted to us; to you? What are the most effective actions we can take regarding the responsibilities He has given us, i.e., so that we might be found faithful and fruitful?
- Read verse 30. Does the Lord say this as hyperbole? Or perhaps as a scare tactic? Does the truth of the verse frighten you? (If so, speak with someone you are sure has a good understanding of the gospel. You can find hope and peace in the gospel of Jesus Christ.) What effect might the truth of this verse have on a faithful servant?