

# Waiting Expectantly (Matthew 25:1-13)

*Living in Light of the End – Part 1*

Life Church St. Louis – December 28, 2014

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

*Matthew 24:36 (NIV) "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*

*Matthew 24:45-46 (NIV) "Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns.*

## 1. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus' coming

*Matthew 25:1-2 (NIV) "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise.*

### 1A. Don't let the \_\_\_\_\_ fire go out

*Matthew 25:3 (NIV) The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.*

### 1B. Be \_\_\_\_\_ with the Spirit

*Matthew 25:4 (NIV) The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.*

## 2. Jesus will return \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 25:5-6 (NIV) The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'*

### 2A. It will be \_\_\_\_\_ to prepare

*Matthew 25:7-8 (NIV) "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'*

### 2B. Others \_\_\_\_\_ help you

*Matthew 25:9 (NIV) "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'*

## 3. The wise will enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 25:10 (NIV) "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.*

### 3A. Jesus doesn't know the \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew 25:11-12 (NIV) "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'*

### 3B. Be alert \_\_\_\_\_ in preparation

*Matthew 25:13 (NIV) "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.*

# Waiting Expectantly (Matthew 25:1-13) Study Guide

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Intro. How should our understanding of the end times affect our lives today?

Why is it important to understand that the timing of Jesus' return cannot be predicted (Matthew 24:36)?

How should we be living when Jesus, our Master, returns (Matthew 24:45-46)?

- 1A. What does the kingdom of heaven have to do with the return of Jesus, the bridegroom (Matthew 25:1-2)?
- 1B. Why do the lamps and the oil of the virgins waiting for the bridegroom's return represent the Holy Spirit (Matthew 25:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:19, Revelation 4:5)?
- 1C. How did the taking of extra oil for their lamps demonstrate the wisdom of the five wise virgins (Matthew 25:4)?
- 1D. Why is it essential to be filled with the Spirit and let your light shine for Jesus until He returns (Matthew 5:14-16)?
- 2A. Why does Jesus emphasize that His return will be unexpected (Matthew 25:5-6)?

- 2B. Why is it too late to prepare when the Jesus returns (Matthew 25:7-8)?
- 2C. Why were the wise virgins not able to help the foolish virgins (Matthew 25:9)? What point was Jesus making with this aspect of the story?
- 2D. In what ways will procrastination cause many people to miss the bridegroom's coming?
- 2E. How would Jesus have you prepare for His coming in 2015?
- 3A. How does the shutting of the banquet door have parallels to the shutting of the door of Noah's ark (Matthew 25:10, Genesis 7:16)?
- 3B. Why did Jesus say that He didn't know the foolish virgins (Matthew 25:11-12)?
- 3C. What does the bridegroom's banquet represent (Revelation 19:9)?
- 3D. What was the fate of the foolish virgins (Matthew 24:50-51)?
- 3E. How can you keep watch for the Lord's coming in 2015 (Matthew 25:13)?
- 3F. In what ways is the Lord asking you to grow in wisdom in the New Year?