Sisters, Stay Ready for the Unpredictable

Matthew 25:1-13

Our lesson focus today is on how to stay ready for the unpredictable.

As Women of God, we must stay ready for the unpredictable changes in our lives by keeping our spiritual mind trimmed and lit with the light of Christ.

The focus today is on two key elements:

1. Delays does not give us an excuse to NOT be ready!
2. Failing to be prepared for a delay could become a delay that is denied.

Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy their oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Reading the background of Matthew 25 you literally have to read Chapter 23 and 24. During this phase of Jesus ministry, there church leaders called Sadducees, Pharisees and Scribes. Rather than teaching the people about the Kingdom of God, the very same leaders were taking advantage of the people and causing more economic and financial burden on them. Jesus saw all that was being done to oppress the people being done by the leaders and He began to speak to the crowds about the woes to the leaders and woes upon Jerusalem.

This passage is a warning to not be caught unprepared.

This passage is a call for readiness; to be ready at all times.

It reminds us that something or Someone is coming and cannot be predicted by anybody.

1. Delays does not give us an excuse to NOT be ready!

“But while the bridegroom was delayed, they (wise and foolish) all slumbered and slept. “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

1. **During our time of delay we must remember that life goes on.**
	1. It’s impossible for us to stay alert 24/7.
	2. But it is possible for us to be prepared for the unexpected.
	3. I say that because both the wise and foolish had their lamps.
	4. Both the wise and foolish lamps were burning
	5. Both wise and foolish fell asleep
	6. But the wise virgins had extra oil just incase their lamps went out.

The 5 wise virgins were a symbol of those who were prepared and ready. Their actions were a demonstration of their readiness. They were “engaged in action” to what was expected of them. They didn’t just get dressed up and took off with their lamps. But they also took some extra oil with them just in case their lamps went out.

I’m learning that “it is the crisis of life that will sperate the “ready” from the “unready”.

1. **Failing to be prepared for a delay could become a delay that is denied.**
2. You cannot depend on other people preparedness when you should be prepared yourself.

**“But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy their oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”**

Trim your Lamp

“Whenever the oil was low in an oil burning lamp it would give a dim and obscure light. The person with lamp would trim the lamp by removing the burnt parts of the linen or the torch, so that they would burn clear. It was needful for them to dip linen again in oil, or to pour oil upon them.”

The rebuff given by the *wise* virgins to the *foolish virgins was* not a response of selfish unconcern for others. But it reminds us that no-one can ultimately rely on another’s preparedness.

The 5 foolish virgins were a symbol of those who had the same responsibility as the 5 wise virgins. But the difference in their actions they didn’t take any extra oil.

The question is: Where do you see yourself: The Wise or the Foolish? The prepared or the unprepared? If your response to crisis makes you feel unprepared and out of control; here are some things that can keep us unprepared:

1. Lack of reading God’s word.
2. Lack of dedication to prayer.
3. Lack of praise to God.
4. Lack of accountability to God and spiritual mentors.

All of the above are sure to keep us in a state of unpreparedness. But there is a remedy to the problem. First check your “lamp” to see if the fire has went out.

1. Rekindle the fire that God has put in you.
	1. The fire of the Holy Spirit.
	2. He is your comforter and the guide for all situations.