

LIFEGROUP

STUDY ON READY OR NOT

1. Discuss this phrase: "Fail to prepare, prepare to fail."

Read Matthew 25:1-13

Some interesting context:

1) Betrothal - the marriage covenant is established, a price for the bride is negotiated and paid by the groom to the bride's family.

2) Preparation - The betrothal period is similar to being engaged. They were not yet to unite sexually, and the bride wore a veil to signify her consecration to her husband to be. Often this would be about a year of preparation.

3) Arrival of the Groom - Once the groom finished his preparations he would come to collect his bride. This was usually done at night, and the groom would be accompanied by a wedding party, male friends and a best man, and they would carry torches to light their procession. The bride knew he would be coming but would not know when exactly (hence, needing to be prepared), so the groom would arrive with a shout to get the attention that they had arrived.

4) Wedding party - The bride along with her female attendants would accompany the groom back to his family home for a wedding celebration. After the procession walked back to the groom's family home. This was followed by a week of feasting and celebration by the entire bridal party.

1. In this parable, what's the difference between foolishness and wisdom? How about in your own life, do you think you're foolish or wise?

2. The women became drowsy and fell asleep whilst waiting. In your own life, do you think you become spiritually drowsy? What are some ways you combat that spiritual drowsiness?
3. This passage puts a lot of responsibility on individuals to be prepared. What do you think the passage is telling people to be prepared for? Is it just the return of Jesus?

Sometimes we think of the Kingdom of Heaven just as a place – or a destination. But the Kingdom of Heaven is a way of life, not just a place. It's our choice to follow Jesus

1. In that context, what does it mean that the Kingdom of Heaven is like this parable?

SHARE

Are you ready, excited, prepared?

1. What's your biggest challenge to being spiritually ready each day?
2. What are ways that you can prepare for God's unexpected opportunities?

Reflect on Ephesians 5:15-21 this week and how that relates to this parable.