

The Be Prepared Parables

Matthew 24:48-25:30

Points to Consider

1. God Expects us to be Respectful
2. God Expects us to be Ready
3. God Expects us to Produce Results

God Expects us to be Respectful

Matt 24:45-51 *Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? 46 Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. 47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

The master put one servant in charge and expected him to treat all the other servants **fairly**.

Matt 20:25-28 *But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. 27 And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave — 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

Leaders are to **serve** others. A leader will be judged based on how he treats his followers.

1 Peter 3:7 *Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

The way a husband treats his wife will **determine** if God hears his prayers or not.

Deut 14:28-29 *At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates. 29 And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.*

Every third year everyone was to give a tenth of their produce for the year to help take care of the Levite, the stranger, the **fatherless**, and the widow.

James says pure and undefiled religion is to “visit the orphans and widows in their **troubles**.”

Matt 24:48 *But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards..*

We can mistreat people by **physically** mistreating them. In this case it was physical abuse.

Some abuse can be emotional.

Many abuse others by simple **neglect**. They “eat and drink with the drunkards.” Others pass by on the other side of the street.

The second greatest commandment and the Golden Rule both illustrate the importance of treating others with **respect**.

God Expects us to Be Ready

The wicked servant in Matthew 24 thought the master’s **delay** meant he was not coming back.

Matt 25:6-13 *And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 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.' 10 And while they went to buy, 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!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*

When the bridegroom came, those who were **ready** went into the wedding.

How are we to be ready to meet the Lord?

2 Peter 3:14-18 *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; 15 and consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation — as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

We need to live every day **without** spot and blameless.

1 John 1:7-10 *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

We must **walk** in the light. Our life should be characterized by being good and doing good.

Confess our sins daily.

Back in 2 Peter 3:14-18 we learn that we are to grow in the grace and **knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We need to have a **personal** relationship with Jesus.

We also need to know the **Scriptures** so we don't twist them to our own destruction.

We do not want to be untaught or unstable people.

God Expects us to Produce Results

Look at what the master gives in each of our stories:

1. The master gives authority to the one servant. Along with that authority came **responsibility**.
2. The bridegroom gives the **invitation** to come to the wedding.
3. The master gave each man **talents** to invest while he was gone.

Matt 25:24-30 *"Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' 26 "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

The Lord does not want us to **afraid** to try.

What are you afraid of?

Are you afraid to teach the gospel because you are afraid people will make fun of you?

Matt 27:29-31 *When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying,*

"Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

The next time you are afraid to reach out with the message of Christ because you might get made fun of, remember the **mocking** Jesus endured for you.

Are you afraid you might lose friends?

Matt 26:55-56 *In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. 56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.*

The next time you are afraid to reach out with the message of Christ because you might lose your friends, remember the **lonely** Savior on the cross.

Are you afraid you don't know enough?

Acts 18:24-27 *Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*

The next time you are afraid to reach out with the message of Christ because you don't know enough, remember **Apollos**.

I hope we learned from the "Be Prepared Parables" the following points:

1. God Expects us to be Respectful
2. God Expects us to be Ready
3. God Expects us to Produce Results