



Week 11 – Readiness and Faithfulness (Sunday, July 19, 2026)

Be Ready for the King

Introductory Remarks

The Parables of the Ten Virgins and the Faithful Servant emphasize the importance of spiritual readiness and faithful living. Jesus teaches that His followers should live with an awareness that He will one day return, even if the timing seems delayed. The wise virgins prepared in advance, while the foolish virgins assumed they could wait until the last moment. Likewise, the faithful servant consistently fulfilled his responsibilities while awaiting his master's return. These parables challenge complacency, spiritual laziness, and the tendency to drift over time. Readiness is not driven by fear but by faithful devotion and perseverance. Jesus calls His followers to remain spiritually alert, obedient, and committed regardless of circumstances. A life prepared for Christ's return is marked by consistency, integrity, and a growing desire to honor Him daily.

Lesson Outline

- Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1–13)
- Faithful Servant (Luke 12:35–48)

Key idea: Live as one prepared for the return of Jesus by being faithful through obedience.

Questions

1. What does it mean to live spiritually prepared?
2. Why is it easy to become spiritually distracted or complacent over time?
3. What qualities define a faithful servant in Jesus' teaching?
4. How would your daily priorities change if you truly expected Christ could return at any moment?
5. What habits help us remain spiritually alert and faithful over the long haul?
6. What is one area where God may be calling you to greater consistency and readiness? Be specific.





Matthew 25:1-13

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

²⁵ “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

⁷ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

⁹ “‘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.’

¹⁰ “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.

¹¹ “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

¹² “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

¹³ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Luke 12:35-48

Watchfulness

³⁵ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. ³⁹ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

⁴¹ Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?”

⁴² The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? ⁴³ It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. ⁴⁴ Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁵ But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. ⁴⁶ The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

⁴⁷ “The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁸ But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

