

Ready Or Not, Here I Come!

Ponder: Being ready for Jesus' return.

Scripture: "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" (Matt. 25:10, NKJV).

As a boy I played "hide and seek" with my friends. Whoever was "it" closed their eyes, slowly counted to twenty while the other players hid, then yelled, "Ready or not, here I come!" Anyone who didn't hide well was bound to be caught first and became the next "it."

Being ready for Jesus' return is no mere game! His parable of the wise and foolish virgins illustrates the blessing of being ready and the tragedy of being unprepared.

All ten virgins knew the bridegroom would come, but they didn't know when. Likewise, all of us know Jesus will return, but we don't know when.

All ten virgins took their lamps (Matt. 25:1). Unfortunately, five of them foolishly failed to bring extra oil. The best lamp emits no light without oil! Bottom line, the foolish virgins were not ready. And instead of preparing, they "slumbered and slept" right along with the others (v. 5).

Then the word came: "Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!" (v. 6). Among the foolish five, panic set in. They pleaded with the wise virgins, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out" (v. 8). They refused, however, sending the foolish virgins to buy their own oil.

Does that seem selfish, heartless, and cruel? It shouldn't, for the fact is, you cannot make my preparations for me, nor can I make yours for you. I cannot obey the gospel in your stead. You cannot live a faithful Christian life in my stead.

By the time the foolish virgins returned, the bridegroom had already come. "Those who were prepared went in with him to the wedding, and the door was shut" (v. 10). Though they pleaded for entrance, the foolish virgins heard those awful words: "I do not know you" (v. 12).

Ready or not, Jesus will come! "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming" (v. 13).

Song: "Will Jesus Find Us Watching?"

Prayer: Righteous Father, help us not to become complacent because Jesus hasn't returned yet. May we wisely prepare for that glorious day! In His name, Amen.