

## **The Urgency of the Second Coming**

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End-Time Evangelism / Second Coming; Serious; Conversion; Holy Spirit

The sun rises and the sun sets each day the same. It's easy to become lackadaisical toward our Christian journey. But one important characteristic of all the New Testament leaders of Christianity is that they believed in the urgency of the Second Coming. How can we develop that same urgency?

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### **Training Harder Than Necessary**

The story of a Scottish discus thrower from the nineteenth century. He lived in the days before professional trainers and developed his skills alone in the highlands of his native village. He even made his own discus from the description he read in a book. What he didn't know was the discus used in competition was made of wood with an outer rim of iron.

His was solid metal and weighed three or four times as much as those being used by his would-be challengers. This committed Scotsman marked out his field the distance of the current record throw and trained day and night to be able to match it.

For nearly a year, he labored under the self-imposed burden of the extra weight, becoming very, very good. He reached the point at which he could throw his iron discus the record distance, maybe farther. He was ready.

The highlander traveled south to England for his first competition. When he arrived at the games, he was handed the wooden discus—which he promptly threw like a tea saucer. He set a record, a distance so far beyond those of his competitors one could touch him. For many years he remained the uncontested champion.

*John Eldredge, The Sacred Romance, Nelson, 1997.*

Jesus gave two

main warning about

the last days:

1. Don't be deceived
2. Don't be asleep.

**Mark 13:33 ESV**

Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

- On the one hand,
  - Jesus says
    - Christians will be
      - **caught off guard.**

- On the **other hand**,
- He says **we won't**.

## Unexpected:

### **Matthew 24:44 ESV**

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

- Jesus gives this
  - impression that we
    - are caught off guard.

Church of Sardis:

### **Revelation 3:3 ESV**

Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.

- There is a condition:
  - “If you will not wake up.”

- Verse says,
  - waking up is
    - connected with
      - repentance.
- If we don't wake
  - then He comes
    - "as a thief!"

## Expected

### [1 Thessalonians 5:1-4](#) (ESV)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. **But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.**

- For Some,
  - Jesus coming will be

- like a thief
- For others
  - it won't!

## Two Groups

- Jesus gives warning to
  - believers.
- Some teach
  - two groups:
    - Believers
    - Unbelievers...
- No,
  - warning is repeatedly
    - given to Christians!

**Revelation 16:15 ESV**

(“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”)

- Both groups are:
  - “believers”
  - Christians
  - “active in the faith”
- Some are unprepared
  - Other are prepared.
- By that we
  - can only assume
    - those **unready**
      - are **unsaved**.
      - visa versa.

(A true story)

Bob and Betty were married for 45 year, a strong, loving example of what a married couple should be. However, this couple was always at least 15 minutes late for everything: church, fellowship dinners, or parties. Eventually, Bob contracted cancer and died. The funeral was to be in the church sanctuary. That afternoon, the funeral director came to my office all upset. Betty was outside in the limo and would not get out. I went out to the limo expecting Betty to be upset not wanting to accept the reality and finality of Bob's death. I pleaded with Betty to get out of the limo. She insisted she was NOT getting out. Finally, clinching her teeth, she looked at me and said, "That man made me late for everything for 45 years because he waited to the last minute to prepare I refuse to be on time!"

## Ten Virgins

### **Matthew 25:1 ESV**

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

- Wedding
  - bride maids
  - groom comes at evening
  - bridal party wait
  - walk together
  - candle light

**Matthew 25:2-4 ESV**

Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

- Virgins =
  - believers
  - Christians
  - part of body
- Virginity = purity
  - all have faith
  - pure faith in God.
- Groom =
  - Jesus
  - 2nd Coming
- All Virgins



- “waiting for Jesus”
- have a lamp (truth)
- have oil (Spirit)

**Matthew 25:5 ESV**

As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.

- All of them
  - fell asleep
- Are you asleep
  - today?
  - spiritually?
  - distracted.
- All Virgins
  - “waiting for Jesus”
  - have a lamp (truth)
  - have oil (Spirit)

- fell asleep
- all let lamps go out
- Two groups
  - extra oil
  - no extra oil
- [Zech 4](#) says
  - Oil = Spirit
- They all have
  - “some Holy Spirit”
- Half have
  - “double portion of Spirit”
    - come back to this...

**Matthew 25:5 ESV**

As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.

- Groom (Jesus)
  - didn't come at dusk
    - came at midnight
- It seems as though
  - Lords delays his coming

NKJV

[Habakkuk 2:3](#) (NKJV)

For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time;

But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.

Though it tarries, wait for it;

Because it will surely come,

It will not tarry.

NKJV

[Habakkuk 2:3](#) (HCSB)

For the vision is yet for the appointed time;

it testifies about the end and will not lie.

Though it delays, wait for it,

since it will certainly come and not be late.

- Which one is it?
  - He is **delayed**
  - Or not?
- From our view
  - Lord seems **delayed**...
- But...
  - He will not **delay**

**Matthew 25:6 ESV**

But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

- However you view it
  - delayed or not
  - He will come!!!

**Matthew 25:7-9 ESV**

Then all those virgins rose 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, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.'

- Let lamp burning
  - fell asleep
  - lamp went out
  - burn wick
- Trimmed wick
  - add oil
- Oh no,
  - no extra oil.
- Give us some...
  - not enough

- Oil = Holy Spirit

## Lessons on Oil

### 1. You can't give others your spirituality.

- You can
  - witness
  - encourage
  - support
  - pray
- **The Judgment individual!**
- How did I spend:
  - time
  - talents
  - opportunities

- Spiritual Grandma
  - won't save me!

## **2. Some May Not Be Enough**

- All virgins had some...

[Romans 12:3](#) (NKJV)

... God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

- The Holy Spirit
  - comes to all of us.
- That portion
  - is not enough.
- Elisha wanted
  - more Spirit:

## **2 Kings 2:9 ESV**

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.”

### **What made the foolish virgins foolish?**

- They had insufficient supply
  - of the Holy Spirit.
- Some spirituality
- Some conversion
- Some prayer
- Some Bible study
  - Half-hearted!

Super Bowl XLI. It was a rainy night, and the ball was slippery. Rex Grossman, the quarterback for the losing team, fumbled the ball several times. But Peyton Manning never fumbled. A few weeks after the Super Bowl a reporter discovered that every few weeks during the year Manning had his center (the one who snaps him the ball), Jeff Saturday, snap him water-soaked footballs.

He practices handling wet footballs so he will be ready in case it rains-even though his team plays half of their games in a dome. Manning did what he



could do (practice handling wet footballs over and over) to enable him to do what he could not without this preparation (play great in the rain). We cannot change simply by saying, “I want to change. We have to examine what we think (our narratives) and how we practice (the spiritual disciplines) and who we are interacting with (our social context). If we change those things-and we can-than change will come naturally to us.

*James Bryan Smith, The Good and Beautiful God: Falling in Love with the God Jesus Knows (The Apprentice Series)*

- We must know
  - room for improvement

- Continue Story

[Matthew 25:10–12](#) (ESV)

And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and **those who were ready** went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, **I do not know you.**’

- Foolish are
  - left out
  - marriage (heaven)

- Those who were ready

- went in

- The unready

- left out.

- Unready knock...

- They are told:

‘Truly, I say to you, **I do not know you.**’

- Weird,

- if asked:

- “do you know groom?”

- Foolish virgins

- would say:

- emphatic **“YES,**

- **I’m in the wedding!!!**

- (heaven)

- Yet, they don't realize
  - they are lost.
- Caught off guard
  - Thief in night.
- Jesus finishes parable
  - with these words:

**Matthew 25:13 ESV**

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

- Question:

Are you a wise or foolish virgin?

- Hard to answer
  - foolish thought
    - they were wise...

- Better question:

How Can I Get More Oil?

- Conversion
  - Not just
    - prayer
    - study
    - praise
- Conversion
  - life of repentance
- Conversion is
  - live for God.
  - prioritize God
  - follow convictions
    - Allow HS to reign

- Is that you?
  - are you
  - am I
    - hearer only?

Jesus says:

**Revelation 3:11** *ESV*

I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

- He is coming
  - I want to be ready.
    - Don't you?

We are told that when John Huss was arrested and informed that he would be burned to death for his faith, he purposely practiced holding his hand over fire to prepare for his final test. He burned himself in preparation. He wanted to be faithful to the end.

## Appeal

- Go home
  - take inventory
    - of your life.
- Where are you
  - **surrendered**
    - not surrendered
      - give to Jesus.