

Sermon Study Guide – November 12th, 2017:

Today's Focus – "Waiting Means Watching"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ Today as we continue the “End Times” season of the church year, how much do you think about the end of time?
- ◆ As you wait for the end, how watchful are you? What does it mean to wait in this way? Should you be more watchful?

2) Today's Message: Matthew 25:1-13

“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.

3) What does God want you to know today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



Feel free to answer the following questions to help you follow the sermon...

1. What struggles do we have with waiting? What kind of things are we willing to wait for?
2. What is the “moral” of the parable that Jesus tells?
3. How should we wait for Jesus’ return, practically speaking, when it comes to our deeds?
4. Why is today’s celebration of “*Saints Triumphant Sunday*” so sweet?
5. How does the Bible define the word, “saint”?
6. How did/does the “end” make all the difference for...
 - ⇒ ... *Noah’s waiting before the flood??*

 - ⇒ ... *our waiting for Christ’s return?*

4) Taking it Home:

Consider the following as you go about your week:

- ◆ It’s hard to understand why Jesus is taking so long to return. Yet, today’s sermon emphasized the role of good deeds as we watchfully wait. How can God work through our good deeds, making the delay in his return a good thing?
- ◆ Some people think they have time before they *need* to repent and get their life in order. How does today’s sermon text speak against that? Does the way you live your life reveal a need for you to hear this as well?

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week’s truths:

Monday: *review* Gen. 6:9-22, 1 Cor. 1:1-9

Tuesday: Daniel 12

Wednesday: Ephesians 5:1-20

Thursday: Revelation 19:1-10

Friday: Matthew 24:36-51

Saturday: *review* Matt. 25:1-13