

# Message

PREPARE  
YOURSELF

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# Message From Joel

- **Warning to Judah/Jerusalem/Church**
  - Similar to the Fall Holy Days of God
- **Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2, 12-16**
  - The prophet Joel's warning preceded the physical Babylonian invasion/captivity of Jerusalem, which was a precursor of the times and conditions of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.
  - The warning of Joel is a warning to the Church, "Get ready! Prepare yourselves!" for the testing and trial to come on all mankind.

# Power of Parables

- **Parables are a crucial component to spiritual understanding and growth**
- **Create Relevance**
- **Provide Details**
- **Give Mental Images**
- **Motivate Action**



# Context of the Parables: Second Coming

## ■ **Matthew 24:29-31 / The Glorious Return**

- After the 5<sup>th</sup> Seal (Great Tribulation), the 6<sup>th</sup> Seal (Heavenly Signs) and the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal – The Day of Lord (God's Wrath), Matthew indicates that Jesus Christ will return, in the clouds of the sky. I Thessalonians 4:13-18 indicates the Saints will be resurrected and/or changed and be part of this return

# Context of the Parables: Second Coming

## ■ Fall Holy Days of God and Insight

- Feast of Trumpets - Jesus Christ's return to earth in power, with the resurrected / changed saints
- Revelation 19:11-19
- I Thessalonians 4:13-18
- I Corinthians 15:20-23



# Parable of the Fig Tree

## ■ Matthew 24:32-36

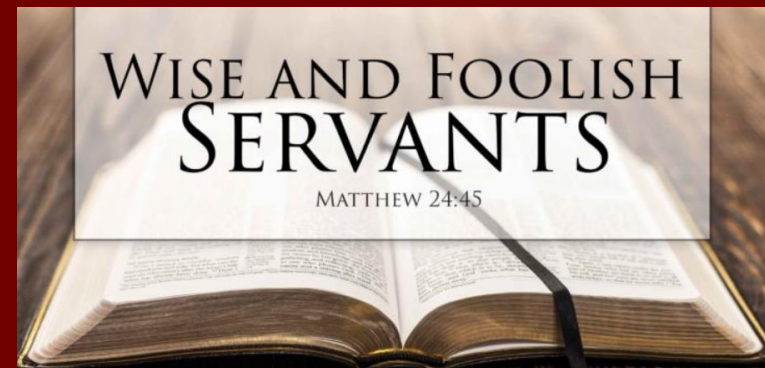
- The parable shows us we should be aware of prophecy, we should keep an eye on what is happening in the world, but it does require – and we should not allow it to become – our primary focus.
- For the physical, we are to be aware, but not over-attentive. For the spiritual, Christ raises the level of vigilance.
- “Take heed to yourselves”
- Be on guard; Your Heart!



# Parable of the Faithful and Unfaithful Servants

## ■ Matthew 24:42-51

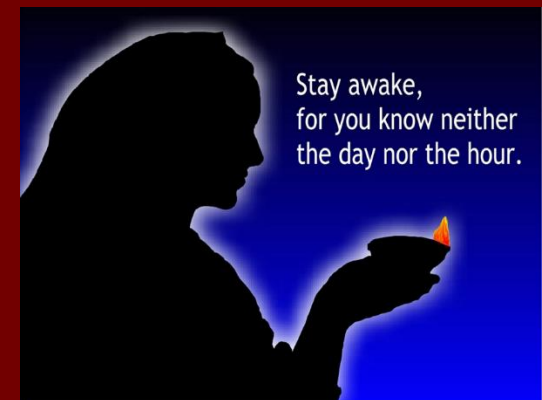
- The parable admonishes us to be faithful and wise in carrying out responsibilities and relationships with our fellow servants, within the church.
- The parable warns us to lead our lives in a way that unites and inspires others to be faithful.
- Links belief with behavior!
- Faithful, Wise and Ready!



# Parable of the Ten Virgins

## ■ Matthew 25:1-13

- The parable pictures the church waiting for the Bridegroom's (Jesus Christ) return. Due to an unexpectedly long delay, He finds half the virgins unprepared, when He arrives.
- Preparedness is an internal state that cannot be transferred to another individual.
- Preparing for eventualities is a lesson of this parable.
- **Attitude and Character!**





# Parable of the Talents

## ■ Matthew 25:14-30

- The parable illustrates that Jesus Christ expects not only faithfulness in duty and preparedness, but He also expects improvement upon what He has given to us.
- The parable insists that our watchfulness not be passive, but must be accompanied by doing God's given duties and the evidence of growth from His investment.
- Our growth is a progression!



# Prepare Yourself

- **Take Heed to Yourselves. Guard Your Heart**
  - Be aware, but don't be distracted from your development!
- **Our lives must link our beliefs to our actions**
  - Faith, Wise and Ready!
- **Preparedness is an internal state that cannot be transferred to another individual**
  - Prepare for eventualities!
- **Our watchfulness should not be passive; it must be accompanied with growth**
  - Our growth is a progression!

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