**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr April 14, 2024**

**Get Ready The Bridegroom Is Coming!**

Matthew 25:1-13

**Key Truth:** Jesus calls believers to actively await His return by focusing their hearts on His glory and their priorities on His kingdom.

**The Tragedy Of Being Unprepared:**

1. Only one thing distinguished the virgins from one another,

 the amount of oil they had with them.

2. The wise virgins were prepared for the coming and delay of

 the bridegroom.

3. The foolish virgins were unprepared and had only enough oil

 to burn for the present moment.

4. The foolish virgins were denied entrance because they were

 unprepared and had no relationship with the bridegroom.

**What We Learn:**
1. Jesus is preparing a place for us in Heaven. John 14:2-3

2. Not everyone that professes faith in Jesus Christ possess true

 faith in Jesus Christ. Matthew 7:21-23

3. You cannot get to heaven off of the salvation of others.

 A. Salvation is an individual response to the global invitation

 of the gospel of Jesus Christ. John 3:16-18

4. God is patient but there will come a time when His patience

 will end.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** As Christians, be always alert, always ready, always living your life with a sense of urgency and anticipation of Jesus Christ’s return. Make sharing the gospel with others a normal part of your everyday life.

**Connection Group Homework:**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Up to this point in your life, what have you had to work the hardest at waiting for? (Think: engagement, degree, promotion, children, etc.) How did you handle, or how are you handling, the waiting process?

What role does waiting play in your relationship with God?

How do you feel about the five prepared virgins not sharing their oil with the foolish virgins (vv. 7-9)? Were they being selfish?

What warning was Jesus giving us in verse 13 about when He will come and what we need to do?

What does “watching” for the return of Jesus practically mean in our everyday life?

Read Matthew 25:10-13: What is your response to the fact that the five unprepared virgins were not allowed into the banquet? What do you think about the implication that there is a limit to God’s open door of grace?

If you knew that Jesus was returning in a very short period of time, how would you live your life differently? What things would you stop stressing over, and what things would you make a priority?