



Scripture Reference: Matthew 25:1-13  
Preached at Mount Zion Baptist Church on July 29, 2018  
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Over the past couple of weeks, we've been looking at the future. We've been looking at an event that many (including me) believe that is coming. An event that will change the entire world as we know it. We've been looking at the coming of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. Two Sundays ago, we began to understand what the setting will be for this event. The days will be like the days of Noah. And I believe that the current world looks a lot like the days of Noah did. [Genesis 6:5](#) tells us that "the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." We were left with this thought after the message, "Don't Miss the Boat." We need to be prepared now for what is about to happen.

Then last week we looked at this event in particular that would change the world. The Bible tells us that there is an event that is going to occur called the Rapture. Scripture tells us that those faithful believers in Christ will be "caught up" along with all those believers who have passed away, and together will forever be with the LORD (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Then we were left with this thought, "Are you ready? This event could happen at any moment and we need to 'Get Ready, Get Set...because one day I'll be GONE."

Today's message is the conclusion of this topic of future events. This morning I want to share with you a "Message for Those Left Behind."

## Read Scripture

In this passage, a sad situation unfolds. We see 10 virgins who are waiting for the groom to come. Sadly, when he comes, only 5 are ready.

A first-century Jewish engagement and wedding occurred like this.

1. There was a dowry paid for the bride by the groom. Jesus paid that price.
2. There was a contract or promise made. (Hebrew - KETUBAH) Jesus gave us that promise of the Holy Spirit.

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3. The groom would bestow gifts to his bride (Hebrew - MATTAN)
4. The bride would prepare herself by a ritual bath and a spiritual cleansing. (Hebrew - MIKVAH).
5. There was a betrothal (Hebrew - EYRUSIN). (*er-i-sin*)
  - a. The Groom would then return to his father's house and began building rooms onto it. He would make preparations to move his bride in.
  - b. The rabbi's stated that the place that the bride was to be taken had to be better than the place she lived before.
  - c. During this betrothal period, the bride was to prepare herself, set herself apart for her groom, and remain faithful.
  - d. When the rooms were completed, the father would tell the son (the groom) to go get the bride.
6. A member of the groom's party would go before the groom and began shouting, "Behold, the bridegroom comes." As he is shouting, a loud shofar is blown to make everyone aware that the groom was appearing.
7. There was the ceremony and grand supper. We call that the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19).

In this passage, we know a few things for a fact. (1) First, Jesus is that Groom. One day He will return (at an unknown or expected hour) and take His bride. (2) Secondly, the Bride in this passage refers to those who are ready. They have their oil. (3) Thirdly, oil in this passage refers to the Holy Spirit (faith and salvation). When the Groom (Jesus) returns, He's only going to take those who are spiritually ready. (4) Fourth, there are some that get left behind because they were foolish. They thought they could just be in the crowd without any effort their own part. Sadly, they couldn't make it based upon someone else's oil (faith). I remember something my dad said from the pulpit once: "You can't get to heaven on mama's salvation, unless you have the same salvation mama had."

We have this hope that He could come back at any moment. That kind of preaching kept us faithful long ago. The reasons the present church age has people who aren't living like true Christians anymore is because the church is not preaching the fact that Jesus could return at any moment. There are many churches that are preaching that Jesus is not even coming back. So what they are teaching is that there is no need to prepare. Well, my Bible tells me to be ready because Matthew 24:42-44 states, "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will" (NASB)."

This morning I want to bring to you a message titled, "A Message For Those Left Behind." Now you're probably thinking, "I'm not planning on missing the rapture." Well, that may be true, but I promise you that you may know someone who is. You may have family that might miss it. If today is the day of His return, you and I all know people that are going to miss it. So take this word to them.

## A Message for Those Left Behind

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1. First, what the Bible says was true.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 – “Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

Revelation 3:10 – “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. (The Faithful Church - Philadelphia)

Titus 2:11-13 – “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ”

Psalms 27:5 – “For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle, He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.”

Luke 21:36 – “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

2. Secondly, don't get mad, get right.

2 Corinthians 13:5 – “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.” Godly preachers have preached for years that you needed to “Get Right or Get Left.”

3. Third, it is going to get really tough, but God will still hear you.

Things that are about to happen. (The Bible describes these events as Seal Judgments, Trumpet Judgments and Bowl Judgments)

- a. A charismatic leader (we call the Antichrist) will arise and bring a temporary peace.
- b. For 3½ years, things will seem all peaceful, but it only the calm before the storm.
- c. Two prophets will appear and prophecy for 42 months, they will be killed and lay in the street 3½ days. The world will see them arise and be raptured.
- d. There will be worldwide war, great famine, and a great death.

- e. The greatest earthquake ever recorded will occur.
  - f. 1/3 of all creation will be destroyed. A demonic controlled army of 200 million will murder 1/3 of the entire human race.
  - g. This leader will demand to be worshipped.
  - h. Darkness will fall, the heat will scorch, the waters will turn to blood, and demons will be released, and there will be hail as large as cars fall from heaven.
  - i. The armies of the world will gather to battle against the Jewish remnant, and then Lord will again return...this time with us.
4. Fourth, repent, get in God's Word, and finally believe on Him.
  5. Fifth, stay out of the church. (False prophets will increase / also if they were the 'church' they would have been gone in the rapture)

Philippians 2:12, "So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling."

6. Sixth, don't take the mark.

Revelation 13:16-17 – "And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

Revelation 14:9-10 – "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb."

7. Seventh, endure to the end. (Or martyrdom)

## Conclusion

My question is this: Why haven't you already been saved? If you want to miss the Tribulation period, then get saved, it isn't too late. Remember, no one knows when the Rapture will take place. Your soul depends on the decision that you make right now. The choice is yours to make, so don't make the mistake of thinking that this is nothing but a fairy tale, because it isn't. Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins and invite HIM into your life today.

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