



For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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The Shepherd's Pen: I DO NOT KNOW YOU

We would certainly view unprepared living as foolish.

After all, we would never drive a car uninsured and then when an accident occurred expect to be covered. We would never stand before the judge and claim we had no idea our taxes were due. The five foolish virgins of Matthew 25 were unprepared for the bridegroom's return. Jesus teaches the idea of preparedness to His disciples with the understanding that He would return at a moment no one can expect. He taught them to live in a state of vigilance. For those who are not prepared, He says, ***I DO NOT KNOW YOU.***



Human beings understand the idea of being prepared. When we buy a car, we buy insurance so that we are covered in case of an accident. In the spring of the year, we pay our taxes so that we are in good standing with the government. As we get older, we plan for retirement. Much of life is about being prepared.

We can only imagine the consequences of the judge rendering judgement against us for failing to be insured or paying our taxes. Even worse yet, how fearful it would be to stand

before the one who can destroy body and soul in hell.

Thanks be to God, we never have to hear the words, ***I DO NOT KNOW YOU.*** We can be sure that we are prepared; we can know we have salvation (I John 5:13).

As we look further in to Matthew 25, Jesus teaches how we can hear wonderful words instead of condemnation...***Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*** Lord, what do we need to do to be prepared? Give food to the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; be hospitable; clothe the naked; tend to the sick; visit those in prison. These things require giving instead of receiving.

Preparing ourselves for the Lord's return certainly benefits us, but imagine how it benefits others. Being prepared people brings glory to the God of Heaven and to the church of His Son Jesus.

Don't be found unprepared at the Lord's return. Work day in and day out to be ready and **WATCH THEREFORE!**

Jason Wright

Matthew 25

- 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.
- 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them