Be Awake, Be Ready, and Be Faithful

In the parable of the ten bridesmaids, Jesus tells of five wise bridesmaids who were prepared for the bridegroom's arrival and five foolish ones who were not. Jesus uses this story to teach us about His promised return and the importance of being ready to meet Him. As He says in Matthew 25:13, *"Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."*

The early Christians eagerly anticipated Jesus' return, believing it could happen in their lifetime. But, as the years and centuries passed, the church became established, and people settled into their daily routines. The expectation of His return may have become less urgent.

We face the same situation today. We know that Jesus has promised to return, but we can become so caught up in our everyday responsibilities that we push this promise to the back of our minds. We may assume there will always be more time to pray, forgive others, put things right, or grow closer to God. But that may not be the case at all. Scripture reminds us that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:1–2). We do not know when He will come, so we must not become spiritually careless or complacent.

Being ready does not mean trying to earn our place in God's kingdom by doing good deeds. Rather, it means nurturing our personal relationship with Jesus and keeping our faith alive through prayer, worship, service, and love for others.

One day, we will each stand before God and give an account of our lives. We cannot rely on someone else's faith or avoid responsibility for our own choices. Therefore, Jesus' message is clear: Be awake, be ready, and be faithful. Let your light shine in the world around you, so that when the Bridegroom comes, you will be ready to meet Him with joy and share in His glory forever.

The important question we must each ask ourselves is this: Am I ready to meet Jesus, and will He welcome me?