

“...and they ALL slumbered and slept”.

Matthew 25:5 Wake up!



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: Find out in today's message if God sees you and me as spiritually awake or slumbering spiritually? Yeshua/Jesus Himself tells us in his Parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. The parable's setting is based on when He returns to gather his Bride and take her to the Wedding. So it's definitely very end time, our time. ALL ten virgins are described as ALL sleeping, even the five wise ones just before the Bridegroom comes. What does this mean for you and me?

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Hello everyone. Philip Shields here. Welcome to Light on the Rock.

Jesus taught a parable of the Kingdom of heaven in Matthew 25:1-13 about ten virgins who were eager to meet the Bridegroom and went to meet him. They were then to follow him to the Wedding of the Bride and Groom.

Whether *these* virgins made up the Bride of Christ – or were the attendants to the Bride – is not the main point of this talk. Either way, they were eager to meet the Groom and head for the wedding of Christ and His Bride, as you'll see. So clearly, this is about the very end of days and the coming of the Messiah. Notice In **Matthew 25:13** it culminates in a warning that since we don't know the day nor hour of His return, we should spiritually stay awake and be alert, watching and aware of what's happening. **1 Thess 5:4** says true believers should not be caught off guard when he suddenly comes.

Welcome to Light on the Rock, where we do our best to focus on God our Father and our Savior, the Son of God. I'm Philip Shields, host and founder of this website. We have hundreds of audio and video sermons and hundreds of blogs and I hope you'll find them instructive, inspiring thought provoking. I also thank **Scott Doucet** for all his hard work

in posting everything on here. You can find topics by using **the Search Bar** – using just 1-2-3 words at the most. Don't try to duplicate a title, just use 2 words. For example if you're hoping to find the sermon "Six Reasons to Cherish your Calling" – just type in "cherish calling" and the sermon will pop up. You can also find all the sermons in any particular year and month.

Maybe Scott, if he has time to, could show us all how to go back all the way to 2004 or how to find a LIST of all the blogs and sermons – hundreds of them.

I do not and cannot do a word for word notes, so the video will have more information than these notes will. But having the scriptures and overall comments in the notes are handy too.

Yeshua/Jesus explains **that five of the virgins were wise** and took **extra oil** for their lamps – just in case – and five virgins foolishly took what they thought was enough to make it through, but began to run out of oil for their lamps when the cry came out at midnight that the Bridegroom was coming.

Would Jesus call you a wise virgin? Or a foolish one?
And are you zealously awake -- or spiritually asleep? Let's find out.

The five foolish virgins hoped the other virgins would share their oil – likened to having God's Holy Spirit. I can't give you, and you can't give me, any of the Holy Spirit. That comes from God alone. So the foolish ones had to try to find more oil for their lamps *late after midnight*, and failed to meet the Groom on time and so were shut out of The Wedding. **Jesus said something very scary** to the foolish ones, something I don't want to hear: **"I don't know you."** Does Jesus know YOU and me? (more in the video)

Matthew 25:1-5

"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, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. **5 But *while the bridegroom was delayed, they ALL slumbered and slept.***"

Many believers went out to meet the Bridegroom decades ago – not just in one or two church groups, but many groups did at various times. And it seemed to us certainly that the Bridegroom was delayed. Jesus himself said the Groom was indeed delayed (v. 5). Peter says we're not supposed to be saying "the

!Bridegroom delays his coming” (2 Peter 3:3-4) – but Jesus says he was delayed. At least from our viewpoint!

Verse 5 is what this message is about. This is my “WAKE UP, brethren” – sermon. Jesus/Yeshua says **all ten** virgins in the Matthew 25 parable of the ten virgins SLEPT. ALL of them. Even the wise ones. But my point is – They ALL slumbered and slept. ALL means ALL. All means – even you and I – SLEEP spiritually just before our Messiah returns! I may start saying “we” now, since it says “ALL slept”. *We’re all found to be asleep.* Those of you disagreeing with me on that are really deeply asleep, because it says “all”.

Of course in the parable, our Messiah was describing literal sleep – they were tired and sleepy and we all have to have sleep. **But SPIRITUALLY speaking**, we are not to slumber but to stay on guard, stay awake spiritually, understanding the gravity of the times.

(I made some discussion in the video about all those “prophets” who were insisting that their timing for their pre-trib rapture theories would definitely happen this past October 2023).

I will discuss what makes a person spiritually sleep and what happens, and what doesn’t happen spiritually, when we SLEEP? I’ll cover that. And again, I’m talking about MYSELF as well as about all of you too. EVERYONE slept.

Matthew 25:5

“But while the bridegroom was delayed, they ALL slumbered and slept.”

Notice a couple points in the first five verses.

- Ten virgins went out to actually MEET the Bridegroom. They seemed *pretty sure of the date and time* and had high expectations or why would they go to try to meet the groom? MANY of us also had high expectations that the Son of God would have returned long ago. But HE himself says – HE says – “While the Bridegroom was delayed.” So the coming of Messiah is delayed – according to Yeshua. But there’s coming a time when there will be “delay no longer” (Habakkuk 2:3). Christ apparently will come back – but only after having been gone a LONG time, as he himself says in many places (**Matt. 24:48; Luke 12:45; Matt 25:5, 19**). So *there IS a delay in his coming when compared to what everyone expected.*

Habakkuk 2:3

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time;
But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.

Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.” (also quoted in Heb. 10:35-37 where we’re admonished not to give up or tire of waiting.)

- The Five Wise virgins made sure they could have a lamp burning, and be a light, no matter how long it would take. But the foolish ones did not prepare properly because they really didn’t expect it to all take so long. And when the Bridegroom didn’t come when expected, they went to bed and slept. They gave up watching. They felt let down – like so many in the church today because the Messiah isn’t here yet

There’s debate about who exactly the ten virgins represent. Christ is marrying **one** chaste virgin (**2 Corinthians 11:2**), though the saints as a group, as a whole, are *also* depicted as many virgins, including the 144,000 depicted as spiritual virgins before the throne in heaven (**Revelation 14:4**) after the 7th trumpet has sounded (**Rev. 11:15**). *The ten virgins of Matthew 25 could represent the Bride or the attendants to the Bride. It was common for a bride to have ten attendants. Be sure you study the two sermons I have on the First Resurrection.*

2 Corinthians 11:2

“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may **present you as a chaste virgin** to Christ.”

I personally tend to lean towards thinking Matthew 25 is talking about the attendants to the bride, who also were referred to as “virgins” in Psalm 45, about the King’s wedding.

Psalms 45:13-15

“**The royal daughter** is all glorious within the palace;
Her clothing is woven with gold.

14 She shall be brought to the King in robes of many colors;

The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You.

15 With gladness and rejoicing they shall be brought;
They shall enter the King's palace.”

Attendants to the Bride, or the Bride herself – that’s not the main point right now. I’m focusing on staying alert and spiritually awake. The Bible says that those who have been given the Holy Spirit now are likely to form the “bride of Christ” (Eph 5:25, 32).

- Those with “oil in their lamps” are those with the Holy Spirit active in their lives and have a close relationship with Yeshua.

- Those who are wise are ones who want more than anything else to come to really deeply **know** Yeshua – as Paul says **in Philippians 3:8-11** – who made it his whole goal “that *I may KNOW him* and the power of HIS resurrection” (**Phil 3:10**). Paul wanted the resurrected life of Jesus/Yeshua to now be his own life (Col 3:3-4).

So they ALL slumbered and slept. **The very end time brethren – or believers – are often depicted in less than the best ways.**

- Yeshua asked if he would even be able to find faith on the earth upon his return (**Luke 18:7-8**).
- And as we just read in Matthew 25:5, the end time believers all slept.
- To the 6th church of Rev. 2-3, to the Philadelphians, Christ says, “I’m coming *soon*.” Revelation 3:10-11
- The church depicted with Christ knocking on their door. Laodiceans are also depicted spiritually as “wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked”. They’re lukewarm. They’re neither hot nor cold but so lukewarm our King feels like vomiting them (us?) out. You can review that yourselves **in Rev. 3:14-20**. Verse 18 seems to say those in the Laodicean type attitude will have to go through severe testing. Verse 20 says to the Laodiceans that Christ is at their DOOR. He’s here for them.

Revelation 3:14-22

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write,

'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, **I will vomit you out of My mouth.***

17 Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' – and **do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked** – 18 I counsel you to buy from Me **gold refined in the fire**, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

19 **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock.** If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 **To him who overcomes** I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.""

NOT a good picture of us end time believers. Little faith if any. Sleeping. Lukewarm. How about you? This sermon is saying “it’s time we all WAKE UP”, trim our lamps, get active again and prepare to meet the bridegroom.

*Don’t assume, like Laodiceans do, that you’re perfectly OK and zealous and hot for Christ and his ways. In Yeshua’s own words, no, you and I as end-time believers are *not* all that hot and zealous and full of faith.*

WE ARE CLOSER to the coming of Christ – of course – than any other time in history. We should be wide awake excited. But many brethren sleep spiritually. *Prophesied events for the end time are clearly shaping up, coming together* – but what’s the church doing? Preparations are well underway for **the 3rd temple**. The five red heifers are in Israel now. Priests have been trained. Iran (Persia) and the Muslim nations around seem to be uniting together against Israel. CHINA is building a massive military – a huge army and navy and making inroads around the world. *AND -- God may be giving America a chance to wake up.* But are we asleep?

But What are YOU doing? What am I doing? Would our King say we are wide awake and working hard in his vineyard or fields – or do we SLEEP?

WHAT HAPPENS TO Those WHO SLEEP?

Apply these points spiritually.

1. **All who sleep are INACTIVE.** They aren’t doing any work. Not serving!
2. **They’re not seeking to KNOW Christ and Father better. They’re asleep – so they’re not praying much at all. How can a sleeper be actively following Jesus!?**
3. **They’re certainly not doing GOD’S work** on earth as they should. Are they sharing the good news with everyone? Or is that the work of only ordained ministers? The early *brethren, after Stephen was martyred, the brethren* ‘went everywhere *preaching the word*’ (**Acts 8:4**). I- you- we- have to be doing that same thing better. But sleepers aren’t doing any of that.
4. Sleepers **aren’t fighting Satan or sin** or overcoming the issues in their lives they know fall short of the glory of God in their lives. Are they repenting?
5. **Sleepers are not redeeming the time**, making the most of the time we have left to be close to God, doing what He wants us to do.

6. **Sleepers aren't praying constantly, or fasting** -- and are not studying. Sleepers – maybe you and I – are not “hungering and thirsting after righteousness”. No, **They're inactive – and are unaware they sleep!**

The entire parable of the 10 Virgins

Let's finish Parable of the ten virgins, picking up at verse 5 and 6. *There will be more comments I make in the video than I can include in all the notes.*

Matthew 25:1-13

“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, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. **5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.**

6 "And at **midnight** a cry was heard: 'Behold, **the Bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!**' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, **and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.** [Are YOU ready?]

11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, '**Assuredly, I say to you, I DO NOT KNOW you.**'

13 "Watch [stay alert; stay awake] therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Remember that our Master promised that **He knows** his true sheep, and they follow Him -- and He says none of them will be lost from his hand. But to these five foolish virgins He says, “I don't know you”. How scary that is.

John 10:27-28

“MY sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; *neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*”

So we must know our Savior and know He knows US. John says we know him if we keep his commands (**1 John 2:3-6**) and walk as He walked. Live as HE lived. And if He knows us, we'll end up fine. Even those who claimed to do great miracles in his NAME – HE says to them, “depart from me you workers of lawlessness (iniquity), **I NEVER knew you**” (**Matthew 7:21-23**).

Pray that you and I can come to truly know the Messiah. Pray for that. Paul said his greatest goal was “that I may KNOW him” (Phil. 3:8-11). Work towards that. But you won't be doing this much if you're asleep and inactive. **Jesus said “Blessed is the one found SO DOING when he returns.”** **Our King says those who are active – “so doing” – will be blessed.** Those busy serving, helping, working and so on are what He looks for.

Matthew 24:46-51

“Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, **will find so DOING** [v 45- giving food to the others]. 47 Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. 48 But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My **master is delaying his coming,**' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, 50 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Are you seeing why we must awake from our spiritual sleep and get ACTIVE in the things of God again? And I preach to myself too. We need to awake to the things we must overcome. Are we coveting? Looking for more and more?

In the Parable of the Sower, the seed that falls in thorns are described as someone *distracted* by the cares of this life. (**Matthew 13:22**). They're always worried about, and trying to find more money—that's the seeds in the thorns. And concerned about making more money, but not active in the work of God.

Romans 13:11-14

“And do this, knowing the time, that now **it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.** 12 **The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.** 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, *not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.* 14 But **put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**” (more comments in the video)

Romans 13:11-14 is saying – wake up! Don't be content with your present state of feeling you're spiritually rich, clothed and in need of nothing! We're also warned not to casually be *drifting* away.

Hebrews 2:1 NASU

“For this reason we must pay **much closer attention** to what we have heard, **so that we do not DRIFT away from it.**” (KJV: *lest we let them slip*)

DRIFTING implies something happening to you in your boat you're not consciously aware is happening. We need to wake up and see ourselves DRIFTING, slipping, as I also see myself.

WHAT are the DISTRACTIONS of your life that take you away from being excited for the things of God, or that make us DRIFT away? Worry? Spending so much time on social media and reading/writing texts? Our job? Our hobbies? WHAT? Are you distracted by SINS you're allowing in your life? So many who formerly believed we should not keep Christmas, should not eat pork, and should keep holy days of God – have drifted away from all that.

Luke 12:35-40 NIV

"Be DRESSED, **ready** for service and **keep your lamps burning**, 36 like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. 37 It will be **good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.** 38 *It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night.* 39 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. 40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Yeshua then finished the chapter with extremely strong words for his servants who don't awake spiritually but get drunk and do wrong things. **Read Luke 12:45 to the end.** He warns us to DISCERNING the times we live in – how *we are so close now* to the return of Messiah. We're not talking hundreds or thousands of years anymore – but just a few years most likely. It's time to wake up.

The world is openly talking about a potential World War III. Israel is being attacked on all sides. Our nation America and many others are virtually bankrupt with our national debt now over 36 trillion dollars.

There could be a worldwide economic collapse coming like no other. You won't be able to buy or sell. You'll have no money when that happens. We're told – "Peace and safety – then sudden destruction". Like in the days of LOT = everything might look fine – but then suddenly five cities are wiped out.

Don't let your guard up just because things seem to be continuing as usual!

1 Thessalonians 5:3-7

"For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then *sudden* destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake *you* as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 **Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober."**

I hope I've made my point. We all need to, YOU need to, I need to, wake up from distracted slumbering.

- **REMEMBER, Yeshua/Jesus said ALL the ten virgins slept.** Even the wise ones. "ALL" means it's highly likely that you and I are considered to be *spiritually sleeping now*. If not, wonderful. But let's not take that chance – but go to him in repentance and to wake up instead.
- Remember, **sleeping people are not active.** They can't be considered **zealous or repentant** - but are **very lukewarm** – like Laodiceans. They're not praying as they should. They're inactive and probably think I'm over reacting myself and that they're not all that bad.
- **Sleeping people are not spreading the good news to others.** They're not active in God's work. They attend church services, if they do at all, but it's mostly for social reasons, as many of you complain about the lack of depth of the sermons.
- **Sleepy believers are not fighting sin** as they should. They're putting UP with bad habits and sinful thoughts and ways... right? Sleeping or sleepy people spiritually are not enthusiastic, not gung-ho about anything and just biding their time.

Instead, we are supposed to be doing all we can to make our calling and election SURE. We don't just take it for granted.

2 Peter 1:10-11 Holman

“Therefore, brothers, ***make every effort to confirm your calling and election*** [KJV: **make your election SURE**], because if you do these things you will never stumble. 11 For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly supplied to you.”

But to do 2 Peter 1 – we have to wake up!

- **Sleepy believers aren't excited about what God's doing anymore.** Remember the early days of your calling and how excited you were? How about now? No, sleepy believers would rather sleep. So Laodicean! Many sleepers are frankly **bored** by all this talk about waking up. They're bored in church. They don't study and read like they used to. *Am I describing you?*

Hebrews 9:28

“so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. **To those who EAGERLY wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.**”

Does “eagerly waiting for Him” describe you? So the point of this message – for you and *for me* as well: *wake up* spiritually. Make some huge changes in your life. Take a good fresh look at your spiritual life and commit to making some real changes in your life.

Go to God in prayer, repent of being a sleepy Christian, and take steps to get active again. Trim your lamps so your lamps, your lives, are burning strong and bright. That means we cut out, and cut off, all those things – and sins -- that keep our light of Christ's life from shining brightly through us. Be ready for, and eagerly await, our Messiah's return – and joyfully receive him.

Closing prayer of repentance for all of us.