

Sunday 3rd May 2026 at 10 am

Are you ready?

Welcome	Psalm 47:7-9
Hymn	MP 109 Crown him with many crowns
Scripture	Psalm 45 (page 569)
Children's talk	
Chorus	MP 276 I just want to praise you
Notices	English language, Ben and Racheal. Baptismal pool used next Sunday afternoon by Home of the Free Church
Reading	Matthew 25:1-13 (Page 994)
PowerPoint introduction to Matt 25 sermon	
Hymn	MP 162 From heaven you came helpless babe
Sermon	<i>Are you ready?</i>
Hymn	MP 759 When the trumpet of the Lord

Prayer

- Last week at Ark Kings it was a joy to see Zaynab on a couple of mornings as she came in to invigilate their exams. The exam time had come and the pupils had been told again and again that exams were on their way so that they would be ready for them. Some would have been, some wouldn't. I was doing a Christian Assembly about self-control to help them prepare for life. Some would take heed and some won't. Some take notice, some don't. It has always been that way - some act on what they are told, and some won't.

This is what we have here with the ten virgins, bridesmaids, or maidens. They **took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.**

In characteristically clear language Jesus tells us that the five who weren't ready **were foolish** and those five who were ready **were wise**. x2

- **This morning's parable is all about - being ready.**

1 At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

The bridegroom is the Lord Jesus Christ. Mr 2:19,20 Lu 5:34,35, (Ps 45)

These maidens represent you and I, those who profess faith in Christ. As Christians, we profess, not only to believe and look for, but to love and long for the appearing of Christ, and everything we do is to that end.

This parable starts with '**At that time**', and what is that time?

Three times in Mt 24 Jesus uses that phrase v10, v23 and v30 **At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.**

In the second half of that chapter Jesus is saying 'you do not know when that time will be, he presses the point - and tells us we must be ready.

Here in this parable Jesus uses the example of a Middle Eastern wedding. Although this looks strange if viewed with western eyes, it tells a story which could have happened at any time in an Israeli or Palestinian village

There, as everywhere, a wedding was a great occasion. The whole village turned out to accompany the couple to their new home, and they went by the longest possible road in order that they might receive the glad good wishes of as many as possible. "Everyone," runs the Jewish saying, "from six to sixty will follow the marriage drum."

A major point of this story lies in a Jewish custom; when a couple married they did not go away for a honeymoon; they stayed at home; and for a week they kept open house; they were treated, and even addressed, as a prince and princess, it was the happiest week of all their lives.

These maidens have lamps. What is this all about? Is the bridegroom in need of light? Is he in the dark? We are told regarding these weddings that no one is allowed on the streets after dark without a lighted lamp.

These friends were admitted not only to the marriage ceremony but to the festivities of that week. Because they were unprepared the foolish virgins missed both, they were not ready.

Jesus very clearly describes two groups of maidens: some who were prepared - and some who weren't, the **wise** - and **foolish**.

One group went in and the other group was shut out. What happened then was based on how they had been earlier. How true this is of life. What happens later depends on what we do earlier. **3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.**

If we do not know what is ahead there could be some excuse. But we see that all the maidens knew what was coming. It is knowing what is ahead - and still not acting - that makes someone foolish.

This parable is primarily directed towards the Jews, they had a very clear understanding of the judgment that was to come at the end of the age.

But this parable also applies to the non-Jews, to us today. The Lord God we are told **has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.**" Ec 3:11

No matter what people say, everyone knows - even if the details are not clear. But it is clear to you sitting here this morning. You know of Christ's return and the coming judgment. You know of the need to be saved from that, it's preached almost every week. You all know, each person here.

Both groups of maidens knew, but only one group got ready. Why? If the difference is not based on knowledge, why was it they didn't get ready?

May I suggest four reasons:

1. Though they did know - they lived as if they did not know

Some never seem to take heed of what is ahead, of what is around the corner. You can say to someone if you don't do this you will be late or miss something, and guess what? They missed it, they will always miss it

- I had a rude awakening at school, I still have the piece of paper with my exam results on it, and I can remember the shock of first seeing it! Worst results in the school year - why? I didn't work because I didn't think about the exams ahead. Did I know they were coming? Of course, we all did.

My problem was that I didn't care - and therefore didn't think. I was unwilling. My lazy heart said: 'take it easy, avoid work, avoid effort' so I did not do what I should have done.

2. Maybe they didn't take any oil because they thought what they had was enough.

Those maidens all had lamps but only some took oil. Others thought they had enough for the present. All appeared to be well 'for now', in the short term, their lamps were functioning.

- If you don't fill up now you won't make it to the next petrol station. It never seems to be an issue in Britain with petrol stations everywhere, but I remember in Australia if you didn't have enough to make it to the next town you may well die in the desert.

They thought they were OK as they were. They were as we say: 'running on empty'. This lamp speaks of those with a Christian profession that is a lamp, but with so little within, so little oil, there's no light. No one really knows that person is a Christian because there is so little to show for it.

3. They thought they could do it later. They were saying, it's OK 'there's time' x2.

- The picture here of these maidens missing the bridegroom is perfectly true to life. Bible teacher Dr. Alexander Findlay (1880-1962) tells of what he himself saw in Palestine. "When we were approaching the gates of a Galilean town," he writes, "I caught a sight of maidens gaily clad and playing some kind of musical instrument. They danced along the road in front of our car; so when I asked what they were doing, the dragoman told me that they were going to keep the bride company till her bridegroom arrived. I asked him if there was any chance of seeing the wedding, but he shook his

head, saying in effect: ' It might be tonight, or tomorrow night, or in a fortnight's time; nobody ever knows for certain.

Yes, it was longer that they thought. ⁵ **The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.** The fact that they were all sleeping does not distinguish between them. This sleep simply represents a timespan or interval between now and then.

- Findlay's account goes on to say that one of the great things to do, if you could, at a middle-class wedding in Palestine, was to catch the bridal party napping. So the bridegroom comes unexpectedly, and sometimes in the middle of the night. He is required to send a man along the street to shout: 'Behold! the bridegroom is coming!' but that may happen at any time; so the bridal party have to be ready to go out into the street at any time to meet him, whenever he chooses to come....

Jesus said again and again that no-one knows the day 24:36, that it will come upon us like a thief in the night 24:42-44

- Police raid homes at 4:30 in the morning, it is then they can be sure of catching their suspect sleeping

⁶ **At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'** ⁷ **Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.**

Suddenly they are awakened – as we will all be awakened. It is then that they make that terrible discovery. They are not ready. Like that thief in the night, it will be come upon many unexpectedly. If they are not ready, they will be caught out.

Jesus is warning us that there are certain things which cannot be got at the last minute when he comes. Some say, I'll deal with it later, I'll sort it out when the day comes, no, no, it will be too late then. The apostle Paul said: " **I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation.** 2Co 6:2 It is not later, but now.

4. Lastly, they thought others would help them out

⁸ **The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'** ⁹ **"No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'**

Here is a very important warning - There are certain things which cannot be borrowed. The foolish virgins found it impossible to borrow oil when they discovered they needed it.

A man cannot borrow a relationship with God; you must possess it. I say you because it has to be you - - - - it is not transferable

- **At home: Your mother or father, your brother or sister, a wife will not be saved because her husband is, or vice versa. So it is here, that person sitting next to you may be saved, but you are not.**

We can share common grace but not saving grace - it must be yours alone!

A man cannot borrow a character; he must be clothed with it. We cannot live on the spiritual capital which others have amassed. There are certain things which we must win or possess for ourselves, for we cannot borrow them from others. *Some say "Speak a good word for me;" I cannot! Some say pray for me, I say "Will you not pray for yourself?"*

It may not be transferrable from another person – but it is transferable, however, from Christ. He is willing, and able, to take onto himself all your sins and my sins, that greed, pride, sexual sin, hatred in the heart, laziness, carelessness, past indifference to Him – he is willing to transfer all of the guilt of it onto himself – through his painful punishment on the CROSS - and to transfer his righteousness to you. **"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."** 2Co 5:21 That is grace, his free gift of life to the undeserving sinner.

The Saviour is still here – for now.

The Lord Jesus is still willing to receive all who will turn to him. Those who will turn and forsake their sin will receive forgiveness and life. A Pardon, peace and purpose awaits everyone – anyone - who will come to receive it. That is God's grace. Have you done that? That is the only way to be prepared for that Day to come, by doing something now. x2

Let us finish by looking at the two outcomes

Some were prepared and some weren't. Some were ready and some were caught out. When the time came some went in and rejoiced.

The joy of the wise

4 **The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.** They had a supply of oil such as genuine believers have. Those listening would have known that in the OT the oil pictures the Spirit to be given. **Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power.** 1Sa 16:13

Our oil or Spirit of life comes from Jesus living within me. As Jesus said **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.** Joh 7:38,39. Do you have it? No? Then seek it from Jesus as did the woman at the well who asked **Where can I get this living water?** Joh 4:11

The wise ones had plenty of oil to cause their lamps to shine brightly so that when **the bridegroom arrived the virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.** v10

And the door was shut. The door does two things it shuts some in - and shuts others out. **A lift door shuts you in, secure and ready to go. But it also shuts out those who don't make it on time.**

The lot of the foolish

And the door was shut. What a chilling statement. **the door was shut.**

- **Dr Findley goes on to say when the bridegroom has once arrived, and the door has been shut, late-comers to the ceremony are not admitted."**

the door was shut. When the time came the unready, the unprepared, the foolish, were shut out, and there was nothing they could do about it. Jesus is saying this means one thing and one thing only. When Christ returns those who are not ready, not being useful will be shut out.

Now the narrow gate, the strait gate, which is Christ, is for the present open; but soon it will be shut and bolted, and then a great gulf fixed. Just as the shutting of the door of the ark when Noah was in; he was secure, but all others finally abandoned to the judgment of God.

They cannot enter, it is too late. Just as it is too late for a student to be preparing when the day of the examination has come. It is too late for a man to acquire a skill, or a character, if he has not already got it, when some job needs to be done, so it is with us and God. It is easy to leave things so late that we can no longer prepare ourselves to meet with God.

In our impressive technological age we can stop a wall collapsing, stop a bullet, stop a missile but we cannot stop time, *time waits for no man.*

This passage is about planning ahead now for that future Day - which will come. Those who are serious about their soul will seek salvation now.

Most people turn to and serve Christ when they are young. Especially in their teens or student years. Less do so in their thirties, even less in their forties and fifties, very few in years beyond that. Like concrete on a slow set do not let a hardness set in. A man or woman set in their ways, are less willing to turn to the Lord and give up sinful habits.

- **When Mary of Orange was dying, her chaplain sought to tell her of the way of salvation. Her answer was: "I have not left this matter to this hour." To be too late is always tragedy.**

I don't know you

11 **"Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'**

12 **"But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'**

As Jesus said earlier: **Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'** Mt 7:23. Who are these? Those who saw themselves as Christians but had no real connection to Christ. They had never made Christ their own. **They didn't KNOW Him, He doesn't KNOW them.**

Jesus sums it all up by saying 13 **"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."** A person only **keeps watch** when they know something is coming, **like standing on a platform and looking out for the train.** Watching is what you do now.

But a Christian does not stand still **like the one on the platform looking out for the train, nor is he sitting idling in a doctor's surgery looking for his name to come up on the screen.** Salvation is not just waiting for that day to arrive.

How does a Christian show he or she is keeping watch? He does it by being prepared, with lamps shining brightly. Being filled with Christ's Spirit and full of good works. Bearing fruit, being useful to the Lord. Redeeming, making most of the time, spending and being spent. Then you will be ready, and everyone one else will see that you are ready. Is that you? Make sure that is you.

Then you will be ready on the day the bridegroom arrives. On Christ's return the wonderful wedding day will have come. We will not be bridesmaids but the bride! It will not be someone else's wedding – but ours! **Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.** Re 19:7 Will you make sure you are ready so that like a bride on her wedding day, you can say "I wouldn't miss it for anything!" _____ **END**

Cantonese

金斯諾頓浸信會

3rd 星期日上午10點

準備好了嗎？

歡迎讀 詩篇 47:7-9

聖歌 MP 109 為他加冕，賜給他許多冠冕

經文 詩篇45篇（頁569）

兒童談話

合唱 MP 276 我只想讚美你

通知 （英文），Ben 和 Racheal。自由之家教會將於下週日下午使用洗禮池。

讀 馬太福音 25:1-13（第 994 頁）

馬太福音25章講道的PPT介紹

聖歌 MP 162 你從天而降，無助的嬰孩

講道： 你們準備好了嗎？

聖詩 MP 759 當主的號角響起

禱告

- 上週在方舟國王學校，很高興看到扎伊納布連續幾個上午來監考。考試時間到了，學生們被反覆告知考試即將到來，以便他們做好準備。有些人做好了準備，有些人則沒有。我當時正在籌辦一場關於自製力的基督教集會，幫助他們為人生做好準備。有些人會聽從，有些人則不會。有些人會注意，有些人則不會。一直以來都是如此——有些人會聽從教導，有些人則不會。

這就是我們看到的十位童女，她們拿著燈出去迎接新郎。

，那五個沒有預備好的是愚拙的，那五個預備好的是聰明的。

- 今天早上的寓言故事講的是——做好準備。

1 那時，天國好比十個童女，拿著燈出去迎接新郎。

新郎就是主耶穌基督。（可 2:19-20；路 5:34-35；詩篇 45）

這些少女代表你我，代表那些自稱信奉基督的人。身為基督徒，我們不僅宣稱相信並盼望基督的再來，更宣稱愛慕並渴望基督的再來，我們所做的一切都是為了這個目的。

「那時」開頭，那麼「那時」指的是什麼時間呢？

在馬太福音24章中，耶穌三次使用了這句話（第10節、第23節和第30節）。**在那時，人子的兆頭將出現在天上，地上萬國都要哀哭。他們要看見人子駕著天上的雲降臨，帶著能力和大榮耀。**

在這一章的後半部分，耶穌說“你們不知道那日子什麼時候會來”，他強調這一點，並告訴我們必須做好準備。

在這個比喻中，耶穌用中東婚禮的例子來說明事情的真相。雖然從西方人的角度來看，這似乎很奇怪，但它所講述的故事隨時都可能發生在以色列或巴勒斯坦的村莊。

在那裡，如同在其他地方一樣，婚禮是一件大事。全村人都出來陪伴這對新人前往新家，他們選擇了盡可能長的路，以便盡可能多地接受大家的祝福。

「正如猶太諺語所說，從六歲到六十歲，每個人都會跟隨婚禮的鼓聲。」

這個故事的重點在於猶太習俗；一對新人結婚後，不會去度蜜月；他們會待在家裡；並且會敞開家門招待客人一周；他們會被像王子和公主一樣對待，甚至被這樣稱呼，這是他們一生中最幸福的一周。

這些少女們都提著燈。這是怎麼回事？新郎需要照明嗎？他身處黑暗之中嗎？據說在這些婚禮上，天黑以後，任何人都不准在街上行走，必須有燈。

這些朋友不僅被允許參加婚禮，還被允許參加那一週的慶祝活動。由於毫無準備，這些愚蠢的處女錯過了這一切，她們根本沒有準備好。

耶穌非常清楚地描述了兩類少女：一類是做好準備的，另一類是沒有做好準備的，即**聰明的和愚蠢的**。

一組人進去了，另一組人被拒於門外。後來發生的事取決於他們之前的行為。這話在生活中多麼真實啊！後來發生的事取決於我們之前做了什麼。 **3愚昧的人拿著燈，卻沒有帶油。**

4聰明人卻帶著油罐和燈一起來。

如果我們不知道未來會發生什麼，或許還能找到一些藉口。但我們看到，所有的少女都知道即將發生什麼事。正是明知未來會發生什麼事卻依然無所作為，這才是愚蠢的。

這個比喻主要是針對猶太人的，他們對末日審判有著非常清晰的認知。

但這一比喻也適用於非猶太人，也適用於我們今天的人。經上說，**主上帝已將永恆放在世人的心中；然而，他們卻無法測透上帝從頭到尾所成就的一切。**」（傳3:11）

無論人們怎麼說，每個人都心知肚明——

即使細節並不清晰。但今天早上坐在這裡的你們都很清楚。你們知道基督的再來和即將到來的審判。你們知道需要得救才能免受審判，這幾乎每週都會被宣講。你們都知道，在座的各位都明白。

兩組少女都知道事情的經過，但只有一組做了準備。為什麼？如果差別不在於是否知情，為什麼她們沒有做好準備？

我提出以下四點理由：

1. 雖然他們明知故犯，卻裝作毫不知情。

有些人似乎從不注意前方，從不留意轉角處即將發生的事。你可以告訴別人，如果你不做這件事，你就會遲到或錯過什麼，你猜怎麼著？他們還是錯過了，而且總是會錯過。

- 我在學校經歷了一次當頭棒喝，至今還留著那張寫著考試成績的紙，我還記得第一次看到它時的震驚！那一年我考得最差——為什麼？因為我根本沒好好學習，也沒把考試放在心上。我知道考試快到了嗎？當然，我們都知道。

我的問題在於我毫不在乎——因此也從未思考過。我不願付出。我懶惰的內心告訴我：“放鬆點，別幹活，別費力”，所以我沒有做我應該做的事。

2. 也許他們沒有取走任何石油，因為他們認為自己擁有的石油已經足夠了。

那些少女們都有燈，但只有少數人加了油。其他人則認為她們的油暫時夠用。一切似乎「暫時」都很好，她們的燈都能正常使用。

- 如果你現在不加油，就到不了下一個加油站了。在英國，加油站到處都是，這似乎從來都不是問題，但我記得在澳大利亞，如果你沒有足夠的油開到下一個城鎮，你很可能就會死在沙漠裡。

他們自以為一切都好。正如我們所說，他們“油盡燈枯”。這盞燈象徵著那些自稱基督徒的人，他們如同燈盞，但燈裡空空如也，油少得可憐，根本無法發光。沒有人真正知道他們是基督徒，因為他們幾乎沒有任何實際行動來證明這一點。

3. 他們覺得以後可以做。他們說，沒關係，「還有時間」x2。

- 這幅少女們思念新郎的畫面，與現實生活完全吻合。聖經教師亞歷山大·芬德利博士（1880-1962）講述了他在巴勒斯坦的親眼所見。
「當我們接近加利利一座小鎮的城門時，」他寫道，「我看到一群少女身著艷麗的服飾，演奏著某種樂器。她們在我們車前的路上翩翩起舞；於是我問她們在做什麼，翻譯告訴我，她們要陪伴新娘直到新郎到來。我問他有沒有可能看到婚禮，但他搖了搖頭，也可能是個搖頭，也可能是個準時，也可能是最後一點。

是的，時間比他們預想的要長。

5新郎遲遲未到，眾人都困睡著了。他們都睡著了，這並不代表他們彼此之間存在差異。這種睡眠僅僅代表了從現在到那時的一段時間或間隔。

- 芬德利的記述接著提到，在巴勒斯坦的中產階級婚禮上，如果可以的話，最好是趁著新娘和伴娘們打盹的時候出其不意地出現。新郎會突然造訪，有時甚至在半夜。他必須派人沿街高喊：「看！新郎來了！」但這可能隨時發生；因此，無論新郎何時出現，伴娘們都必須做好準備，隨時到街上迎接他...

耶穌一再說，沒有人知道那日子是哪一天（創 24:36），它會像夜間的賊一樣臨到我們（創24:42-44）。

- 警方凌晨4點30分突襲民宅，這樣才能確保抓到正在熟睡的嫌疑犯。

6半夜有人喊著說：「新郎來了！你們出來迎接他！」⁷於是所有的童女都起來，收拾她們的燈。

突然間，他們醒了過來——

就像我們所有人都會醒過來一樣。那時，他們會發現那可怕的真相：他們毫無防備。就像夜裡的竊賊一樣，它會在許多人毫無防備的情況下降臨。如果他們沒有做好準備，就會被抓住。

耶穌警告我們，有些事在祂再來之前是無法解決的。有些人會說，以後再說吧，等他來的時候再解決。不，不，到那時就太晚了。使徒保羅說：

「我告訴你們，現在正是蒙恩的時候，現在正是拯救的日子。」（哥林多後書 6:2）不是以後，就是現在。

4. 最後，他們認為其他人會幫助他們。

8愚拙的人對聰明的人說：“請分給我們一些油，因為我們的燈快要滅了。”

9聰明的人回答說：“恐怕不夠你我用的。不如你們到賣油的人那裡去買吧。”

這裡有一個非常重要的警告——

有些東西是藉不到的。愚拙的童女們發現自己需要油的時候，卻發現根本借不到。

人無法借用與神的關係；你必須擁有它。我說“你”，是因為必須是你——它不可轉讓。

- 在家裡：你的父母、兄弟姊妹，妻子不會因為丈夫得救而得救，反之亦然。這裡也是如此，坐在你旁邊的人可能得救了，但你未必得救。

我們可以分享普遍的恩典，但不能分享救贖的恩典—救贖的恩典必須是你獨有的！

人無法借用他人的品格，必須自己塑造。我們不能依靠他人累積的精神財富生活。有些東西我們必須自己去爭取或擁有，因為我們無法向他人借用。有人說：“請為我說句好話”，

我做不到！有人說：“請為我祈禱”，我說：“難道你不為自己祈禱嗎？”

罪或許無法從別人身上轉移，但卻可以從基督轉移。祂甘願且能承擔你我所有的罪，包括貪婪、驕傲、淫亂、心中的仇恨、懶惰、疏忽，以及過去對祂的冷漠——

祂甘願將這一切罪孽都歸於自己，藉著祂在十字架上所受的痛苦刑罰，並將祂的義轉移給你。

“神使那無罪的，替我們成為罪，好叫我們在祂裡面成為神的義。”哥林多後書

5:21這就是恩典，是神白白賜給不配得的罪人的生命。

救世主依然在這裡——至少現在是這樣。

主耶穌仍願意接納所有歸向祂的人。凡悔改離棄罪惡的人，必得赦罪和生命。赦免、平安和人生意義正等待著每一個——任何人——

只要他願意接受。這就是神的恩典。你悔改了嗎？唯有現在就行動，才能為那日的到來做好準備。

最後，讓我們來看兩種結果。

有些人做好了準備，有些人則沒有。有些人胸有成竹，有些人卻措手不及。時機一到，有些人進去後欣喜若狂。

智者的喜悅

然而，聰明人帶著油罐和燈，他們備有油，就像真正的信徒一樣。聽過這段經文的人都知道，在舊約中，油象徵著將要賜下的聖靈。撒母耳拿起盛油的角膏大衛，從那日起，耶和華的靈就大大感動大衛。
。（撒母耳記上 16:13）

我們的油，或說生命的靈，來自住在我們裡面的耶穌。正如耶穌所說：「信我的人，就如經上所說，從他腹中要流出活水的江河來。」他這話是指著後來要領受的聖靈說的。（約 7:38-39）

你擁有這靈嗎？沒有？那就向耶穌尋求，就像井邊的婦人問：“我在哪裡可以得到這生命之油？”
水？約翰福音 4:11

智者們備足了油，使他們的燈明亮閃耀，以便...

新郎到了，預備好的處女們和他一起進去赴婚宴。門就關上了。（第10節）

門關上了。門的作用有兩個：它把一些人關在裡面，也把其他人擋在外面。電梯門把你關在裡面，安全又方便出發。但它也把那些沒能準時到達的人擋在外面。

愚者的命運

門關上了。多麼令人不寒而慄的一句話。門關上了。

➤ 芬德利博士接著說，一旦新郎到達，大門關上，遲到者就不得入內了。

門關上了。

時機一到，那些沒有預備、沒有準備、愚昧的人就被拒於門外，他們對此無能為力。耶穌的意思是，這只意味著一件事：當基督再來時，那些沒有預備好、沒有用處的人將被拒之門外。

如今，那窄門，那條狹窄的門，就是基督，暫時敞開著；但不久之後，它就會關閉並門上，然後一道巨大的鴻溝就會形成。正如挪亞在方舟裡時，方舟的門被關閉一樣；他安然無恙，但其他人最終都將被交在神的審判之下。

他們無法進入，為時已晚。正如學生在考試當天才開始準備就太晚了一樣。一個人如果尚未掌握某種技能或品格，在需要完成某項工作時再去學習也為時已晚，我們與上帝的關係也是如此。我們很容易把事情拖到最後一刻，以至於無法再為與上帝相遇做好準備。

在我們這個科技日新月異的時代，我們可以阻止牆壁倒塌，阻止子彈，阻止飛彈，但我們無法阻止時間流逝，時間不等人。

這段文字是關於提前規劃的。

現在是為了那終將到來的未來之日。那些真正關心自己靈魂的人，現在就會尋求救贖。

大多數人在年輕時歸向基督並事奉祂，尤其是在青少年時期或學生時代。到了三十多歲，這樣做的人就少了；到了四五十歲，就更少了；再往後年紀就寥寥無幾了。就像混凝土緩慢凝固一樣，不要讓心變得僵化。一個固執己見的人，就更不願意歸向主，放棄罪惡的習慣。

- 奧蘭治的瑪麗臨終前，她的牧師試圖告訴她救贖之道。她回答說：「我不會把這件事留到這一刻。」為時已晚總是悲劇。

我不認識你

11 「後來其他人也來了。」先生！先生！他們說。「給我們開門！」

12 但他回答說：“我實話告訴你，我不認識你。”

正如耶穌先前所說：“那時，我要明明白白地告訴他們：‘我從來不認識你們。你們這些作惡的人，離開我去吧！’” 馬太福音 7:23。

這些人是誰？他們自稱是基督徒，卻與基督沒有真正的連結。他們從未真正接納基督。他們不認識祂，祂也不認識他們。

耶穌總結說：“所以你們要警醒，因為你們不知道那日子、那時辰。” 一個人

當知道有東西要來的時候，他們就會保持警惕，就像站在月台上眺望火車一樣。你現在也在這樣做。

但基督徒不會像月台上的人那樣呆立不動，盼望火車到來；也不會像坐在診間百無聊賴地等待螢幕上出現自己的名字。救贖並非只是等待那一天的到來。

基督徒如何表明自己時刻警醒？他要預備好自己，如同明燈閃耀；要被基督的靈充滿，並滿有善行；要結出果實，為主所用；要珍惜時間，充分利用時間，並竭盡全力。如此，你便預備妥當，人人都能看出你已預備好。你就是這樣的人嗎？務必確保你就是這樣的人。

這樣，在基督再來的日子，你們就預備好了。基督再來時，那美好的婚宴就到了。我們不再是伴娘，而是新娘！那不是別人的婚禮，而是我們的婚禮！讓我們歡欣雀躍，將榮耀歸給祂！因為羔羊的婚宴已經到了。他的新娘已經準備妥當。 啟示錄

19:7 你要確保自己做好準備，就像新娘在婚禮當天一樣，可以說：「我無論如何都不會錯過！」

結束