

As Christians, we must not make excuses to avoid doing what God calls us to do. If God is truly our Master and His Son is our Lord we must be willing to obey willingly. For, you see, our time, our abilities, and our money are really not ours in the first place. As Christians we are caretakers; not owners. When we ignore, squander, or abuse what we have been given we are in rebellion and deserve to be punished. In the parable of the ten virgins and the parable of the master and his servants with the money both describe the consequences of two attitudes to Christ's return. The person who diligently prepares for it by investing his time and talents to serve God will be rewarded. The person who has no heart for the work of the kingdom will be punished as seen in Amos 5:18-20: **"18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light. 19 It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him! 20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it**

**not very dark, with no brightness in it?"**

God rewards faithfulness. Those who bear no fruit for God's kingdom cannot expect to be treated the same as those who are faithful to the end. The question is, how will your actions separate you from the pretenders and the unbelievers? The real evidence of our faith and our love will be seen in the way we act. For in Galatians 6:7 we find that God is not mocked. Galatians 6:7-10: **"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. 9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."** For every action there is an opposite reaction. We will be judged by our actions, so let us walk wisely; not as those who are foolish.

By Bill Davis

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# Faithful Sayings

## Olsen Park Church of Christ

4700 Andrews Avenue Amarillo, Texas 79106  
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### Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.  
10:20 a.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

### Elders:

Ken Ford  
Charles Kelley  
Pat Ledbetter

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Pat Goguen  
Neil Ledbetter  
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## "The Day of the Lord"

**H**ow often today do we hear those around us say they can hardly wait for the day of the Lord; that is the second coming of Christ? On TV, we frequently hear a lot of TV preachers talk about how wonderful it will be during the second coming. I do agree that the second coming will be a great and a glorious day for all the Christians in the world who have kept God's Word in their hearts and whose lives and have been faithful to the very end. As Christians, we all should be ready to dwell with God and His Son "Jesus" in Heaven for eternity. But there is a question for all of us who say that we are

ready to meet the Lord. Are we really ready today to meet the Lord?

When the day of the Lord comes will we be like the ten virgins in Matthew 25 who were waiting for the bridegroom? 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 (Cont.)**

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. 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 therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”**

The parable that is mentioned here is about a wedding that was taking place and all were invited to the wedding. In this parable, on the wedding day the bridegroom went to the bride’s home for the ceremony, then the bride and the groom along with a great procession returned to the groom’s home where a great feast was to take place; often lasting for weeks. These ten virgins in the parable were waiting to join the proces-

sion, for they hoped to take part in the wedding banquet. But when the groom did not come at the expected time, five of the virgins were out of oil for their lamps. When the time came for the groom to come they had left to purchase extra oil, thus it was too late to join the feast because the doors had been shut. In this parable, the groom is the Lord, the bride is the church and the ten virgins are the Christians. When Jesus returns to claim His church will we be as the five wise virgins who had their lamps trimmed with extra oil waiting for the Lord? I pray we are! When Jesus returns to take His people (Christians) to heaven, we must be ready to go home. For you see spiritual preparation cannot be bought or borrowed at the last minute. Our relationship with God and His Son must be our own, for we need to be ready to meet the Lord and stand before God Almighty to be judged by our own actions, words, and thoughts according to God’s Word.

Also in Matthew 25 :14 we read where as a man was going on a journey he entrusted his property to his servants. To one servant he gave five talents and to the other he gave two talents and to the other he gave one talent. Here in Matthew 25:14 a talent was a term used for a unit of weight of

about 75 pounds, then for a unit of coinage or currency. Today the present use of a talent is to indicate an ability, a gift, or a gift from God to use in service for God. Now the master in this story divided the money (talents) among his servants according to their abilities to perform. No one received more or less than his abilities could handle. In this parable if the servant failed in his assignment his excuse could not be that he was overwhelmed. According to their master he gave according to their abilities to perform; their master knew their abilities and their weakness. If a servant failed at his task assigned by his master it was a result of being lazy or of hatred toward his master. You see, God gives us time and abilities, as well as other resources according to our abilities. God expects us to invest them wisely until He returns. For all of us as Christians, we are responsible to use what God has given us. The issue is not how much we have, but how well we use what God gave us.

As we read on in Matthew 25:19 we read that the servant who had received five talents invested wisely and he gained five more talents. We read that the servant who had received two talents also invested wisely and he gained two more talents. Now when the master came to the servant who

had received one talent, well it was a sad ending. For the servant with the one talent was afraid and went and hid his talent in the ground. Matthew 25:24-30: **“24 Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ 26 But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”** You see, the last servant was only thinking of himself, for he hoped to play it safe and protect “number 1” from his hard master. By his own actions he was judged for his self-centeredness and just being lazy.