

Neglect Of the Gift of Faith

Promise: God's Word continues to sustain the faith it gave birth to

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; [Matthew 25:1-13](#)
(23rd Sunday after Pentecost, 11/8/20)

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. — v. 13

Lead In – As we near the end of the Church year late in the Season after Pentecost, we find that the lessons reflect the end of the age and the Return of Christ the King. Accordingly the theme is preparation and anticipation for what we confess each Sunday, “He will come again to judge the living and the dead.” And all our lessons this morning speak to just that issue...

I. The Return Christ the King Will Be Like...

- On virgins, weddings, and the need for lamps...
- The contrast between the wise and the foolish...
- The oil represents faith continually sustained by...

II. Wouldn't You Know the Bridegroom Is Delayed!

- Sleep is often the metaphor for believer's death...
- Christ's coming will be clearly heralded!
- Foolish miss out on more than just torchlight parade!

III. So What Will That Day Be Like?

- Amos: it could be jumping out of the frying pan...
- Bamboozled by false understand of OT and NT...
- It is not just for heinous crimes and gross sins...

Parting Shot – Salvation is a gift, the most valuable gift imaginable! What could possibly be greater? It is a gift that is ours for the duration. It cannot be taken from us! But sadly it can be so badly neglected that it is like we didn't have it at all! And so we hear the words WATCH! with some urgency...

Eph 5:22-23 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

Eph 5:25-27 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

In Mt. 7:24-27 the wise built their house on the rock, while the foolish built their quickly and lazily on the sand...

2 Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

1 Th 4:13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

1 Th 4:16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 John 3:1-3 RSV

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Am 5:18-19 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.

Jesus coined the phrase “Weeping and gnashing of teeth.” He spoke of the “unquenchable fire that never goes out,” and of “where the worms never die.”

Immediate Context in Amos 5: Matters of justice: “O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to earth!” (v. 7); “They abhor him who speaks the truth. Therefore you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him.” (v. 10-11); “You who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate.” (v. 12).

Am 5:24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

He 2:1, 3 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ... How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?

Luther on 3rd Command: We are to fear and love God so that we do not neglect His Word and the preaching of it, but regard it has holy and gladly hear and learn it.

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