



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ‘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.’ But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Matthew 25:1-13

Waiting

What are you waiting for? Are you waiting for that special someone to ask you for a date? Are you waiting for that quarterback to notice your perfect route and throw you a perfect pass? Are you waiting to hit that perfect note that will get you first chair? Are you waiting for that package from Amazon or that next update for your favorite video game? Are you waiting for your dad to tell you he’s proud of you, or for your mother to finally talk one-on-one with you about whatever it is that has been twisting you inside-out for weeks?

How do you get ready for that moment to happen? Whether it is practice or training, whether it is constantly watching for the package or eagerly waiting for a moment to talk, we prepare so that we are ready when the moment arrives.

Just like we prepare for a big event, Jesus wants us to get ready for him, because he is coming back soon. There are many days when we have to admit that we don’t spend our time getting ready for Jesus. There are days, maybe even weeks and months, when we spend zero time reading God’s Word or looking forward to hearing it in church. As we read this lesson from Jesus, we have to admit that we have “fallen asleep” AND let our oil run dry.

You may fall asleep every time you make preparing for this world number one in your life, but Jesus stays awake and vigilant for you. You may run dry, but Jesus fills you up with his Word. You might forget to be ready, but Jesus forgives you with the Lord’s Supper. Worldly attractions and your mixed up priorities may tempt you to doze, but Jesus splashes the waters of your baptism in your face.

You don’t have to get ready. You are ready. By Jesus’ work on Golgotha’s cross and by his resurrection, you are ready right now. He simply reminds you today and every day, to stay ready.

So what are you waiting for? What’s number one on your list? Jesus has called you his own in faith! Jesus has given you the victory by his work for you! Jesus is more than a package, he is the complete gift and he is already in your heart. To him, you are always number one! As your Lord and Savior, he calls on you to be ready for his glorious return.

God bless your week in Jesus; you are ready for this!

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, King of heaven and earth, come quickly. I am eager for you to return and take me to be with you in heaven forever! Until then, keep my faith strong and my lamp burning. Fill my oil reserves through your Word and Sacraments and remind me always of your saving work for me so I can help others wake up to your love and grace! In your name I ask it. Amen.