

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

10/13/19

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Title: Parables of the Kingdom - The Parable of the Wise & Foolish Attendants

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In the sermon, Tim taught us about the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Attendants, who were essentially modern-day bridesmaids. The attendants were waiting well into the night as the Father of the bride was negotiating a “bride price” to properly fit his daughter’s worth. The attendants’ task was to wait for the negotiations to finish, and then to parade through the streets, with lamps lit, rejoicing in the coming wedding of the Bride and Bridegroom. As is shown by the readiness of the attendants, half communicated a high regard for the bride by bringing extra lamp oil, while the other half showed their low regard for the bride by bringing none. As Tim said, God’s people are called to be ready to answer the Master’s call; not being in control of His timing or demands, but as humble servants, valuing Him above all else. In our brokenness and sin we regularly undervalue Jesus in His ownership of all things, and in His amazing love for us. Our lives and the things we prepare ourselves for communicates what we value, whether things that We want, or things that God wants. And the truth is, undervaluing God can have eternal consequences. The beauty of the gospel is that when God the Father showed His desire to save His people, and the Son lovingly asked what the Father needed. The Father declared, “a substitute to die in their place.” And the Son said, “Send me.”

Reflection Questions:

1. *Tim said this whole parable is about “Readiness.”*
 - ***What are the biggest things in your life you’ve needed to prepare for? How did the preparation communicate value?***
2. *Tim said a lack of “Readiness” shows “Foolishness,” “Selfishness” and leads to “Great Loss.”*
 - ***When have you seen a lack of “readiness” lead to blunder?***
 - ***How have you seen these three consequences play out both in your daily life, and in your faith?***
3. *When told what His Father needed to accomplish salvation, the son eagerly said, “send me.”*
 - ***How have you missed or undervalued Jesus (now or in the past)?***
 - ***Where do you need to let go of your control, and let God ask from you whatever He desires?***

The Facilitator

WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION (The Father)

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

- *Worship the LORD for His supremacy. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that He is worthy of being obeyed, honored and served with all your heart.*

2. CONFESSION (Me)

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

- *How have you lived as if God is demanding for expecting you to wait on Him? Confess your pride and conceit to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to help you humble yourself before Him as you should.*

3. THANKSGIVING (Jesus)

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

- *Read Matthew 20:28. Give thanks to Jesus for His work in serving us and giving His life as a ransom in our place. Thank Him for attending to whatever the Mission of His Father required in order to save us from sin, death and hell.*

4. SUPPLICATION (Holy Spirit)

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

- *Ask the Holy Spirit to bear the fruit of faithfulness in you. Read 1 John 2:15-17, 28 and pray for His work in your heart to help you “abide in him, so that when he appears you may have confidence and not shrink from Him in shame at His coming.”*

5. Prepare for Gospel Community (My Neighbor)

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

- *Who do you know that is not ready for Jesus' return? Pray for them, asking the Lord to open their eyes to their need and the beauty of His Grace in the Gospel.*