Ready or Not - The Bridegroom is Coming

Primary Text: Matthew 24:37-42 & Matthew 25:1-13

Introduction - The Reality of Waiting
We all know what it's like to wait for something important—a job offer, a diagnosis, a loved one to arrive. Waiting reveals something about us. It exposes whether we are truly prepared or just hopeful.

Jesus tells a story about waiting—not to entertain us, but to warn us and prepare us. This is not a parable about weddings. It is a parable about readiness.

I. Everyone was Invited - Not Everyone was Ready (Matthew 25:1-4)
All ten bridesmaids were invited. All ten expected the bridegroom. All ten believed he was coming. **Yet Jesus says five were wise and five were foolish.** The difference was not belief - it was preparation. Association with the wedding is not the same as readiness for the wedding.

II. Delay Exposes What is Real (Matthew 25:5)
The delay is intentional. Jesus is addressing the reality that His return would not be immediate. Delay does not destroy faith - delay reveals it. When Jesus doesn't come as quickly as we expect, some grow deeper, some grow careless, and some assume they have more time than they actually do.

III. Readiness Cannot be Borrowed (Matthew 25:6-9)
Spiritual readiness is personal. You cannot borrow someone else's faith. You cannot rely on someone else's relationship with God. You cannot live on yesterday's obedience. **Readiness is NOT transferable**. This is not selfishness, this is reality!

IV. The Door Closes (Matthew 25:10-13)
This is the most sobering moment in the parable. Opportunity has an expiration date. There is a time when preparation becomes too late. This parable is not meant to create fear - but urgency.

HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO ME?

What Does "Oil" Represent? (Exodus 12:11)
The oil represents a genuine relationship with Christ, a faith that endures, a life shaped by obedience and devotion. **This is NOT salvation by works, but evidence of real faith.**

What Does Readiness Look Like Today? (Numbers 28:1-2 & Ezra 8:21)
Readiness looks like ongoing repentance, not perfection. It looks like daily dependence, not spiritual emergencies. Readiness is faithfulness when no one is watching. **The wise didn't know the time - but they trusted the certainty.**

CONCLUSION
The bridegroom **is coming**, the timing is unknown, and readiness is required. Ready or not - the bridegroom is coming. The question is not do you believe it? The question is are you living like it is true?