

After A Long Time - RBSM

AFTER A LONG TIME

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic: After A Long Time

Bible Text: Matthew 25:1-5, 14-19

Prayer

Almighty Father, Thank You for Your presence here tonight, we say be Thou highly exalted in Jesus Christ Name. We pray to the Lord, that as You speak to the minister of tonight's teaching, You will also speak through Your Words into our hearts in Jesus Christ Mighty Name. May we be doers, O Lord, of Your word and not the hearers of it alone in Jesus Christ Mighty Name we pray. Amen.

Bible Text

KJV Matthew 25:1-5

- 1** Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.
- 2** And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.
- 3** They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:
- 4** But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.
- 5** While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

KJV Matthew 25:14-19

- 14** For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.
- 15** And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.
- 16** Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.
- 17** And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.
- 18** But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

Introduction

You are all welcome once again in Jesus Christ's name. I pray that as we continue to prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, The Lord will grant us the Grace to end the race well in Jesus' name. Amen

Study

The Lord Jesus Christ began to tell His disciples some illustrations concerning the kingdom of God. He said it is likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Looking at the words of the Lord carefully, one would see that these ladies were all virgins, which implies that they were all born again and followed the Lamb. **Revelation 14:4 KJV** says, "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." They all had lamps which means they had the word of God. **Psalms 119:105 KJV** states, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

By implication, they were Christians who knew Christ because they were waiting for Him; they had the word of God with them, just as all true Christians have the Bible today. So, they went out to meet the bridegroom. **Matthew 25:2 KJV** says, "And five of them were wise, and five were foolish." But something differentiated them. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the ones that were wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Matthew 25:3-4 KJV states, "They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: [4] But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps." Looking at these two set of people carefully, one would see that some thought about the present, not minding about the future, while some prepared for both. These are the categories of Christians we have today. Those who do not have extra oil who only care about the present and not future, and those whose focus is on heaven. To everyone around, they may look like Christians, and you cannot differentiate them from others because their lamps are currently burning but time is what will finally differentiate them.

In this context, the oil can be likened to grace for doing good works. The foolish virgins (Christians) may have exhibited good works, but lacking true grace, they fainted, revealing their hypocrisy. A notable concern about all ten virgins was that they slumbered and slept as the bridegroom tarried (**Matthew 25:5 KJV**). Despite the delay, all were at fault for not staying awake. While five were prepared in case of a delay, they too, could not remain vigilant.

The Lord presented this illustration to highlight that the perception of His coming taking too long is influenced by human time, whereas God operates on His own divine schedule. Sometimes, people may feel that God is delaying His promises, but His timing is purposeful, not rushed.

The concept of divine timing is emphasized, as seen in **Romans 5:6 KJV**, stating, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." God's actions are not rushed or pressured; they follow a divine plan. Just as Christ's first coming occurred in due time, His return will also happen at the appointed time. The caution is to focus on the certainty of His coming rather than expecting it hastily. Many generations, including the apostles, thought Christ would return in their time, but the key is to remain vigilant and await His return with certainty, regardless of how long it takes. People questioning the delay have occurred throughout history, as noted in **2 Peter 3:4 KJV**, "And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." The emphasis is on steadfast faith in the certainty of His return, regardless of human perceptions of time.

In **Matthew 25:13 KJV**, the Lord emphasizes the need to watch, as the exact day or hour of the Son of man's coming is unknown. He further illustrates this point with a parable in **Matthew 25:14-19 KJV**, where a man entrusts his servants with talents according to their abilities before embarking on a journey. Each servant is expected to use the talents wisely and make a profit for their master.

One servant, however, chooses to be lazy and idle, burying the talent rather than investing it. **Proverbs 31:27 KJV** is referenced, stating, "She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." This highlights the expectation for diligence in managing the gifts and talents entrusted by God.

Ecclesiastes 10:18 KJV emphasizes the consequences of slothfulness, stating, "By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness

of the hands the house droppeth through." It underscores the idea that neglect and idleness lead to decay.

Many in ministry may have buried their God-given talents, either through neglect or misuse, serving their interests rather than God's. **Matthew 25:19 KJV** notes, "After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them." The master returns unexpectedly, prompting an account of how the talents were utilized. This parable serves as a reminder to actively use the gifts and talents bestowed by God for His purposes, avoiding idleness and neglect, as we remain watchful for the return of the Lord. Even if these servants had thought that he would not come back, he still came back, and when he came, he expected them to give an account of what he committed into their hands, even if they had assumed that he would not do so again since he did not come back for a long time. He still asked them to give accounts. This implies that no matter how long the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ takes, everyone will give account on the last day.

Beloved, this is exactly what is happening currently. The Lord Jesus Christ traveled, and He told us that He will come back. Since it's about 2,000 years old, some believe He would not come back again. Since it's already a long time in the sight of men, you must know that He will certainly come back in due time.

What have you been compromising on because you feel the Master is taking too long? Are you already losing your convictions because you have waited for Him tirelessly? Remember the foolish virgins; they waited but didn't take extra oil, which made them miss the bridegroom.

In your waiting, have you gotten extra oil before the time when everywhere would be dark and there would be none to sell to you? **Luke 12:35 KJV** Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; now you have the grace to gain knowledge and ask for grace to stand strong till the end, with your good works being seen by men as you shine as a light. No matter how long the Master stays, He will come back someday to settle accounts. As it is currently in the world, there are two sets of people in the body of Christ waiting for the long-awaited messiah, even though all are commanded to watch because no one knows when He will come. **Matthew 24:44-51 KJV** Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. [45] Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? [46]

Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. [47] Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. [48] But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; [49] And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; [50] The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, [51] And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

From this passage, we can see two sets of servants.

1. **The faithful/wise servants:** These are those who put much concern on the interest of their Master, ensuring that all things are in order, not minding if the Master delays. They watch and keep their garments spotless **Revelation 16:15 KJV** Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. The wise virgins who took extra oil represent those whose lives showcase good works in Christ, not using grace as a reason to live in sin. They will be greatly rewarded by the Lord **Matthew 24:47 KJV** Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

2. **The evil/wicked servants:** These are those who say in their hearts that the Lord is taking too long to come back, and they begin to act contrary to His commandments. They indulge in worldly lifestyles, eating and drinking with the world and living a riotous lifestyle like the prodigal son. The Lord will come upon such a person in a day he does not expect, and they shall be judged and cast into the lake of fire **Matthew 24:50 KJV** The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

You must not relent in waiting for the Messiah. Though He tarries, He will come in due time. Keep your focus on Him, keep your garment spotless and remain faithful in your walk with Him, and you will rejoice with Him at His appearance.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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