



GUIA DE ESTUDO

Until He Comes

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BIG IDEA

Christ's return calls believers to active, faithful use of every God-given talent as evidence of readiness.

Until He Comes

The preacher opened by saying that Jesus' final sermon in Matthew 24–25 is meant to prepare us for his return, not leave us passive. He contrasted ordinary routines, family life, work, and even distractions that can look good with the deeper question: are we using what God has entrusted to us? For him, readiness for Christ is shown in active service, not idle waiting.

LEITURA BÍBLICA — MATTHEW 25

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And 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. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him

will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

Three illustrations, one message

He argued that the three illustrations in Matthew 25 all point to one principle: God has given each believer a task to do before the Master returns. The bridesmaids were called to accompany the bridegroom, and even Craig Keener's words about "participate," "practice," and "do their appropriate part" show that the story is about activity. In the final judgment scene, Jesus says readiness is shown by caring for the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, and imprisoned. The sermon's unifying claim was plain: waiting for Christ's return and being ready for it are not passive matters.



Our readiness is demonstrated through activity for the Lord.

— Sermon theme

The parable of the talents

The preacher focused on Matthew 25:14–30 as the center of the sermon. He stressed that the "talents" are not only money in the story but all the gifts, opportunities, and abilities God gives. He quoted J. C. Ryle: "anything whereby we may glorify God is a talent," including gifts, influence, money, knowledge, health, strength, time, senses, reason, intellect, memory, affections, and privileges. He also pointed to examples like Ed at the baseball game handing out Steps to Christ, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and money, showing that even someone who feels tongue-tied can still use an apparent weakness as a ministry opportunity.



anything whereby we may glorify God is a talent.

— J. C. Ryle

APLICAÇÃO PRÁTICA

Using what God has already placed in your hands

He urged listeners to see talents in their job, neighborhood, home, schooling, and even in social media tools like LinkedIn, Strava, Instagram, and Facebook. He specifically mentioned the church initiative One Voice 27 as an example of using a device and social media not only for entertainment but to witness for Jesus around the world. He also said that some disadvantages can become talents, just as Ed turned his difficulty speaking well into a practical ministry of giving literature and simple gifts after baseball games and on vacations.



Jesus just wants us to use these, and our using of these in the context of Matthew 25 is an example of our readiness.

— Matthew 25 application

Readiness looks like faithful working

The preacher emphasized that the servants who invested the five talents and two talents were praised because they acted at once and produced increase. The issue was not whether one had five, two, or one talent; the issue was whether the servant was faithful with what had been entrusted. He noted that the amounts were huge—scholars estimate a talent at about 6,000 denarii, with modern estimates ranging from about \$350,000 to \$1,400,000—so the point is the preciousness of what God gives. He also reminded the congregation that God assigns the scale of responsibility, while our duty is simply to be faithful with what he gives.



Readiness looks like faithful working.

— Sermon refrain

REFLEXÃO

What does your life show?

Do my daily routines reveal faithful investment of God's gifts, or do they reveal passivity? When I think about my work, home, neighborhood, church, and online presence, am I using them as opportunities for Jesus? If I had only one talent, would I still see it as precious and worth using for God's glory?

PARA REFLEXÃO

Group discussion

1. Which of the three illustrations in Matthew 25 most clearly challenged your understanding of readiness?
2. Why do you think the preacher insisted that waiting for Christ is not a passive matter?
3. What examples did he give to show that a "talent" includes more than money?
4. How did Ed's practice of giving Steps to Christ after baseball games illustrate faithful stewardship?
5. What is the danger of comparing one talent, two talents, and five talents people instead of simply being faithful?
6. How does the final judgment scene in Matthew 25 connect service to Jesus with readiness for his return?

APLICAÇÃO PRÁTICA

Faithfulness in real life

Identify one concrete place where God has already given you influence: your job, a classroom, a family relationship, a neighborhood, or a social media account. Follow the preacher's example by turning that place into a ministry opportunity. If you feel weak in speaking, look for another way to serve—like Ed's books, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and small gifts. If you have more visible gifts, use them without pride. If you feel you have only a little, remember that even one talent is a large trust from the Master.

REFLEXÃO

Heart check before the Master returns

Am I asking Jesus to transform my heart, or only to help me work harder? Do I love him enough that I naturally want to speak of him and serve others? Have I been hiding what God gave me because of fear, comparison, or laziness? What would it look like for the Holy Spirit to make my ordinary life evidence of readiness?

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A prayer for active readiness

Lord Jesus, thank you for your grace, mercy, and the talents you have already entrusted to us. Forgive us for the times we have hidden what you gave, compared ourselves with others, or lived passively while waiting for your return. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts to make us new. Help us use our gifts, opportunities, work, relationships, and influence for your glory. Make us active, faithful, and ready until you come. Amen.