



FOOLISH & WISE BRIDESMAIDS

MARCH 10, 2024

A BALANCED APPROACH

MATTHEW 25:1-13

- » The parable of the faithful and wise servant versus the wicked servant (24:45-51) teaches us to be prepared in case Jesus comes _____ than we expect.
- » The parable of the bridesmaids (25:1-13) teaches us to be prepared in case Jesus _____ longer than we think He will.

Both attitudes are necessary for us to have a balanced _____ hope in Christ's return.

TYPICAL ANCIENT JEWISH WEDDINGS

- STEP ① A legal _____.
- » often _____ by parents, but not always;
 - » _____ with the payment of a bridal price.
- STEP ② A _____ period.
- » included the _____ of vows and gifts;
 - » could last a _____ or longer;

- » husband would demonstrate his ability to provide and in the preparing of a _____; (JOHN 14:1-4)
- » at this point, the marriage was fully binding, only dissolved by _____ (even though it was not yet _____).

STEP ③ A wedding _____.

- » it started with the groom and groomsmen arriving at the bride's house where she would be _____ with her bridesmaids;
- » the wedding party would _____ through town, alerting the people to gather for the celebration;
- » the attendants would carry small oil lamps, which lit the way and added to the _____;
- » the banquet would be held at the _____ home;
- » it could last as long as a _____, depending on the wealth of the families involved. (JOHN 2:1-11)

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. How do you react when a person you are waiting for is delayed?
2. Read Matthew 25:1-13. "At that time" refers to the day of the coming of the Lord (24:42). In what ways was the behavior of the wise and foolish virgins similar as they waited for the coming of the groom? How were their behaviors different?
3. According to this parable, what constitutes wisdom in relation to Christ's return? It has been nearly two thousand years since Jesus promised to return. What negative effects might this have on us?
4. In the light of this parable, what can we do to wait for the imminent return of Jesus for the church in a practical or constructive way?
5. Read John 14:1-4. What reason does Jesus give here for the importance of His coming back a second time after his death and resurrection?
6. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is preparing a place for you in His Father's house? In what way is Jesus preparing you to be with Him?