

What to Do While Waiting

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 24-25.

B. Parables are God's way of hiding hidden truths for the believer to find and apply to himself.

II. Three parables--of the household, the ten maidens, and the talents--all centers around the word "watch."

A. This does not mean that one should give up regular life and simply wait for Jesus' return.

B. This neither means that the Christian should go on as if the Lord was not coming.

C. If we do not watch, we will be deceived--this time will be a time of unprecedented deceit.

III. The parable of the household.

A. The only activity given is the responsibility of feeding the household.

B. Watching means to feed and be fed by the Word of God.

C. The household of God is the church and the servants include any kind of teacher in it.

D. The food is the Word of God--it is truth.

E. Studying the Word of God is basic and fundamental to the whole Christian message and reality.

F. Kinds of servants.

1. The faithful are those who feed those plentifully and faithfully who are entrusted to his care.

a. To feed one from the Word of God is to learn how to live oneself.

b. God gives this one authority to exercise power beyond one's belief.

2. The faithless servant beats those entrusted to him, and he is condemned by the Lord because he is in defiance of what God wants.

G. What the Word of God does that makes it fundamental.

1. The Word of God reveals Jesus Christ and thus refreshes the human spirit.

2. The Bible makes possible an increasing understanding of oneself.

3. The Word of God leads to an exercise of true power and impact.
4. The Bible explains the cause and cure of social problems.
5. It reveals the future and the past.
6. It protects us from the dangers of the unknown.

H. Those who do not feed on the Word...

1. Are not refreshed.
2. Lack self-knowledge.
3. Lack power and have divisions among them.
4. Are baffled and depressed by world conditions.
5. Lack answers to the questions they have.
6. Have widespread delusion about the past and future of humanity.
7. Are exposed without defense to dark powers.

I. If you are going to watch for Jesus' coming, you must know Him through the Word of God.

IV. Tests by which one knows the Word of God. (Hebrews 5)

- A. Can you tell the difference between right and wrong?
- B. Can you translate the Scripture into right conduct?
- C. Can you teach someone else the first principles of the Word of God?

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to “watch?” What does it not mean?

2. Which product of the Word of God stands out to you? Explain.

3. What is your plan for getting into the Bible? Is your plan producing the fruit the speaker mentions? If not, what will you do differently?
