

25 DAYS OF JOY

25 Days of Joy: Waiting with Joy

Matthew 25

12.7.25

All of the preps and planning we do for Christmas is intended to make lasting experiences and memories.

Christmas is often a mixture of sadness and joy.

How do we ensure our Christmas preps get us ready to live in the joy of Jesus all year long?

Matthew 25:1-13 TEXT

In Mt. 24, Jesus starts teaching about his return/second coming. It's been 2000 years and we're still waiting.

At the first Christmas, they had waited at least 4000 yrs!

So much of our lives are full of long seasons of anticipation and waiting.

1) Just as surely as there was a first "advent" of Jesus, he will come again.

What do these 10 virgins have to do with us and Christmas joy?

They're waiting for the groom to return so they can start ALL of life together.

Life is full of ups and downs, and that is the life we want to share with each other.

The groom is leveraging all he has so they can know joy over the long

haul together.

Christmas is the proof that Jesus is getting things ready for us, and we're waiting for him with joy.

2) We're waiting for Jesus with joyful anticipation.

1- Jesus is surely coming back for us.

2- We're waiting for him with joyful anticipation.

3- We're working while we're waiting...or we're not.

This potential bride and bridal party are supposed to be working, Preparing for the groom's return.

Preparing themselves, physically.

Preparing their character and morals.

Preparing their worship of the Lord and love for their future spouse.

They should be ready in who they were, what they did with their lives with God and others.

The virgins are intended to represent us; that means:

We are preparing and working or

We are not working and preparing

The next story Jesus tells about "talents" is even more revealing about the work we should be doing while we wait for his return.

Bag of gold = talent = 20 years of income = \$550k-1 million.

We are to be virgins waiting and stewards working.

We are to be investing in the big, beautiful world we live in. (part of the message of the Incarnation)

Christmas reminds us we are waiting for the Master to return to see what we have done with the world he has entrusted to us.

What are you doing while you wait?

Are you getting ready to go where the Bridegroom leads?

Are you investing in the world and people to give the Master more when he returns?

1- Jesus is surely coming back for us.

2- We're waiting for him with joyful anticipation.

3- We're joyfully working and preparing for his return- or not.

Matthew 25:14-21 TEXT

In our waiting, we have to keep our daily decisions and deepest affections centered on Jesus- how?

1- Be more heavenly minded.

2- Pray for a joyful heart and glad countenance.

3- Make daily choices of faith.

4- Live in the joy of the Lord.

What is the joy of the Lord?

God's joy in himself.

God joy in saving sinners to be his bride/servant.

God's joy is an experience we can enter into today and for eternity.

Let this Christmas remind you:

Wait and prepare in joy for Jesus to return.

Work and invest in this world and in people with joy.

Live faithfully every day in joy because he's coming again.