

Life Church Sermon Sheet:

Date: Fellowship Sunday, May 5, 2019

Rev. M. Dixon

Title: **Becoming Wise Pt. 4**

**Expectations; that lead to Connections;
Matt 25:1-13**



Black Soldiers in
Liverpool

*Going from being Foolish to Wise and helping others along the way
via healthy expectations in a community of prepared- for justice and Christ's Return!*

Review:

1. **WHAT we are to do?- Simply Wait despite suffering-** A high expectation in a distracted world.

Rom 5:1-5

2. **HOW to Wait?- In a Prepared fashion.** Taking time to prepare is key.

3. **WHERE do we expected to Wait? Expectation, Support & Consequence** if we are not prepared- Judgement will occur if we are not present/ready... The power of God's high expectation for us to Wait.

4. **WHO do we to Wait with?- Encouragement- We don't wait alone- We are connected...**

We wait with those we identify with, and support each other.

TODAY-Finishing Expectations: High but healthy expectations (needed to grow strong) are essential for growth. Too much discipline or ungodly expectations used to control children, students or church members doesn't help them make healthy individual choices in safe spaces (where mistakes can be made). Passions take time to flourish, as well as exposure to the world, potential gifts and healthy priorities. Once they are nourished, they grow in us naturally. We should be known for our unconditional love for the saints...

Example- High Expectations; and Questions; and explorations;- Video...

1. **Working Backward; Requires Preparation!** Spoilers... Time Travel... Writing a good book Requires 4 dimensional thinking... You have to know how the pieces fit together (Connect) bringing an ultimate climax along with some regular excitement along the way. Yes we saw Endgame yesterday and it was good, I feel they learned from Dr. Who how to write 4 dimensionally. OK God did this first. This story is about the end of time, about Christ coming back- Will we be ready- to be ready requires knowing He is coming back!
2. **Being Ready:** This sermon is for me first.... Teachers are judged more harshly! **James 3:1** Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. (NASB) A fashion designer will be judged if they go out with wrinkled pants...
3. **Knowing Jesus:**The People in the wedding said they don't know them! Very Scary words. That is Judgement. John 17:3 ³This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (NASB) 'Mt 7:21-23 (NASB)²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²²Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many [a]miracles?' ²³And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.
4. **Knowing each other: Serving each other as image bearers; of the Most high!**

- a. **What is your identity? Is it as a Christian – first?** You may be surprised if you treat people a certain way they may want to be a part of your team.
- b. **How do you treat people of a different Identity?** Enemies or Those who aren't prepared, those missing the wedding?
- c. **Who do you fight for?** God has called us to be prepared by fighting for those who can't fight for themselves.
- d. **What does it mean for you to Wait where you are?** The impact of Seeing People how God does allows for a rich legacy... and unexpected connections and service to those around us to see our prepared love for them.
- e. **Example:** Liverpool's impact on the World via blacks in the military.

5. So what do you think?

- a. What does it mean for you to wait where you are?

- b. What area(s) of your life do you have high expectations?

- c. What area(s) of your life do you have low expectations?

- d. What areas of your life need a little (or a little more) preparation?

- e. How does knowing the end of the story, help us serve and think about others who might be left out because they don't know God or have a form of Godliness that is just not right?

- f. What does the story of the 10 virgins mean to you?

Other Questions you may have from this past Month? Some reminders: What is School for? Spoilers help us have hope while we wait? What is the purpose of suffering? What do high expectations look like for us as Christians?



Others: _____

Palm Sunday Sermon: Becoming Wise- Going from a Fool to a Fool for God

Michael Dixon
Life Church Boston
4/14/19



Palm Sunday
April 14, 2019

Palm Sunday



This is a day where we begin Holy Week, Celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem...But it would not last long.



Hosanna means Save now! Imploring Jesus to save the People From the rule of the Romans... He would defeat Death, but in a way that valued even the Romans... He died for all not just the Jews.



The 5 wise virgins were on Jesus Side... and would be on it even after the Cross. The 5 foolish virgins may have come out to the wedding... Like on Palm Sunday, but were not there at the tomb!



Being ready means being real with God! This is Jesus warning when he returns... Having our internal oil... What can truly burn ready...

Matt 25: 1-13 ERV

A Story About Ten Girls

25 “At that time God’s kingdom will be like ten girls who went to wait for the bridegroom. They took their lamps with them. ² Five of the girls were foolish, and five were wise. ³ The foolish girls took their lamps with them, but they did not take extra oil for the lamps. ⁴ The wise girls took their lamps and more oil in jars. ⁵ When the bridegroom was very late, the girls could not keep their eyes open, and they all fell asleep.

⁶ “At midnight someone announced, ‘The bridegroom is coming! Come and meet him!’

⁷ “Then all the girls woke up. They made their lamps ready. ⁸ But the foolish girls said to the wise girls, ‘Give us some of your oil. The oil in our lamps is all gone.’

⁹ “The wise girls answered, ‘No! The oil we have might not be enough for all of us. But go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

¹⁰ “So the foolish girls went to buy oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came. The girls who were ready went in with the bridegroom to the wedding feast. Then the door was closed and locked.

¹¹ “Later, the other girls came. They said, ‘Sir, sir! Open the door to let us in.’

¹² “But the bridegroom answered, ‘Certainly not! I don’t even know you.’

¹³ “So always be ready. You don’t know the day or the time when the Son of Man will come.

The Parable of the 10 Virgins

Matthew 25:10

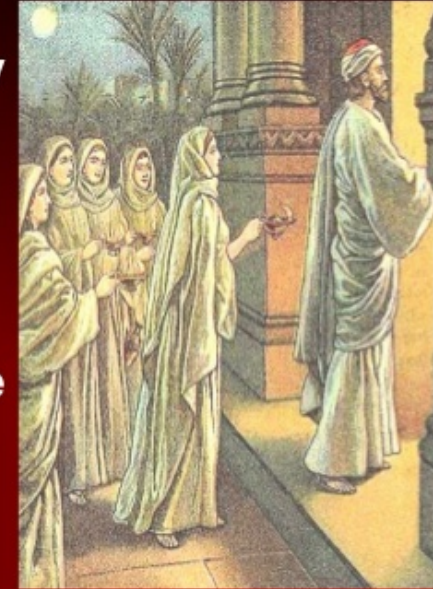
- The groom arrives, quickly enters the wedding feast
- The door is shut while the foolish are still gone

Matthew 25:11-12

- The 5 foolish virgins arrive later and seek entry
- Not allowed entry

Matthew 25:13

- Ties parable back to Mt 24:42



► New Living Translation

Matt 24:42 “So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming.

The Fool is PROUD

1. He doesn't learn from his mistakes.
(Proverbs 26:11) As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.
2. He is sure he is right.
(Proverbs 26:12) Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.
(Proverbs 12:15) The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.

**A fool
says in
his heart
there is no
God.**

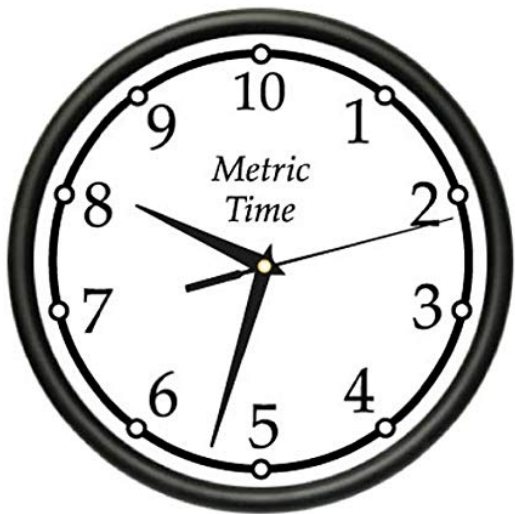


What is a fool?

The 10 virgins were like bridesmaids today... they would be “paired” up with others at the ceremony and after party! Not being there was not just bad for them but for the wedding itself.

Bible is clear to talk about what it means to be foolish, and warns us to not be foolish...That is like saying to a poor person- don't be poor... The real this is that we are all fools, the wise are those that are humble enough to admit it and get help in TIME not to die from a source that can actually help!

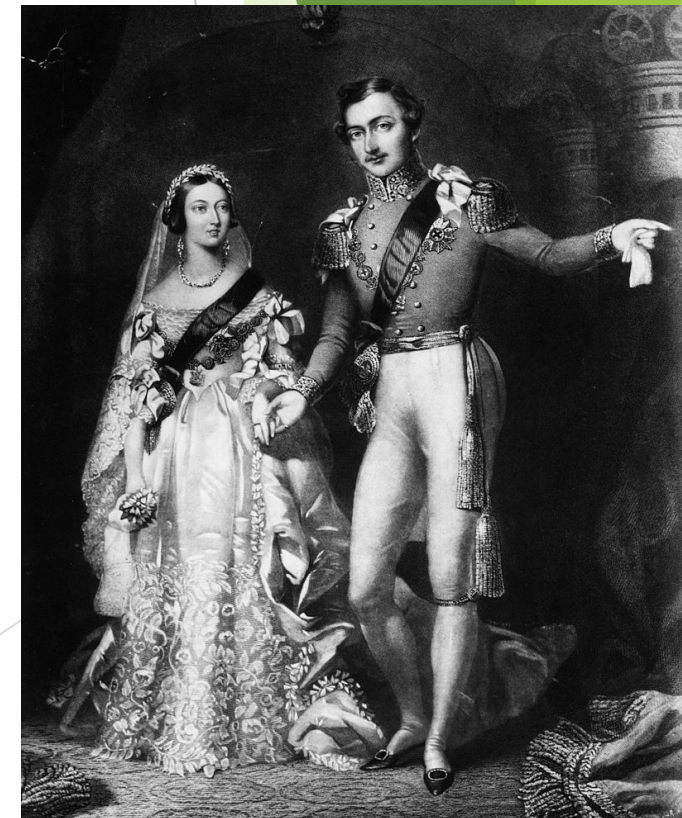
What Makes us Different- Our Stories... Jesus Gave us these stories to help us to Understand our responsibility when he comes back. It is not about not sinning, but having our hearts right



- ▶ Our Stories and imagination Create our Reality. God added some details for us, like the 7 Day week, Hebrew Laws, Language, Marriage etc. But we have added to our stories to help us create civilizations, like at Babel...
- ▶ What makes us different from animals... one idea is our stories... We sometimes forget that most of our world's structures are created... Days of the week, Made by God... The Babylonians gave us the 60 minutes and hours... Napoleon had different ideas... Like Metric time... Also Money for example is built for trade but it is just a piece of paper with a value given to it by man, but that value gives birth to communities, manufacturing, economies, etc. Our stories, our Imaginations (based on our connection with God's) give structure, purpose, invention, to our lives... Like the 3 pigs our stories can help us to learn, especially through our sufferings... Which lead to Hope Faith our identity in Christ to a natural love of God and others that fulfills all we do... Eternal life begins at Faith, but Faith begins at Hope, and Hope begins with suffering... That suffering can end.

Today we are going to talk about the 10 virgins- Daughters who were looking to get married.

- ▶ Why? To be fulfilled biologically? To connect politically, militarily or economically? Or for the modern version for love? Polygamy wasn't just a personal choice it was a social one based on the preservation of a family inheritance. If you look at the Daughters as trying to look out for their economic interest, it was very important to take care of your business! To not be at the wedding was to not be where it was socially acceptable to talk with men and create contacts that could help you get married... The tossing of the bouquet is not just symbolic, the wedding was social connection that allowed the next marriages to easily form. To not be at the wedding was serious, and if you went to a wedding with the right family who could set you up for life, could be a missed opportunity. Think of being invited to Bill Gates or the Walton's family wedding..



This story is NOT about virgins or weddings but about Christ's return and being ready.

- ▶ Think of it again as financially not just out of love for Christ... How stupid would you be to miss the wedding of the richest man on earth. The wedding would be stacked with other rich people you could get to know, who could set you up for life, support your very good cause, help you start a music career, etc. And Love you beyond measure... All you had to do get their on time and do the preparation to make sure that happened... Like find parking, get gas, order an uber, etc. and you just didn't do it...



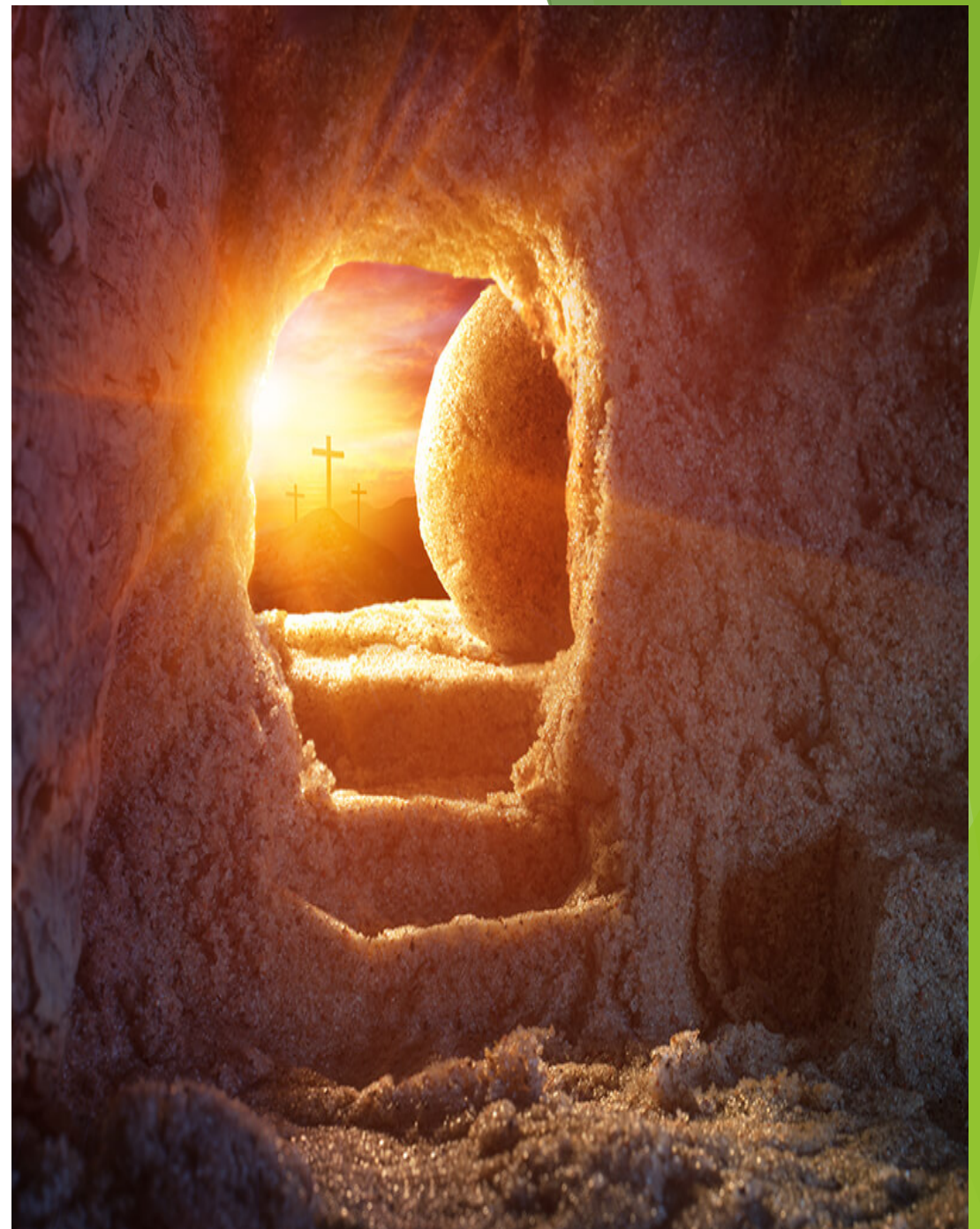
YOU'RE INVITED

CELEBRATE

Resurrection Sunday

Life Church Boston 4/21/19
Epiphany Early Learning Center
230 Centre St. Dorchester, MA 02124

SERVICE STARTS AT 10:30 AM



**Resurrection Expectation- Matters
of the Heart! Letting the
Resurrection help you find your
purpose, Change and fulfill you!**

BUT HE LIVES

- ▶ As people we need a nervous System to Feel and to Grow, not just for us but for our future... Our DNA is shaped by our Suffering...Epigenetics and by the expectation of our persevering Through it... It truly changes us.

Review:

We have Reached Resurrection Sunday!

- ▶ What Lent is ... Preparation for 6 weeks in celebration of Liberty paid for at the Cross and brought home via an empty tomb. Question... Do we prepare for Easter as well as we do for Christmas? Our expectations priority of Christmas points to what we value. What does that mean for our actions? How does the resurrection impact our lives, and how does the stuff we do everyday get in the way of our becoming who we were meant to be? Your Homework... My Challenge this year (want to hear a few if time... if not now next week):
- ▶ Matt. 25:1-13 Revisited- Being ready for Christ's return. What is the purpose of the Wedding? Of Christ Return?
- ▶ Romans 5:1-5 Growth Process vs a Death Process
 - ▶ Growth via Healthy Suffering → Patience → Character → Natural Identity of Love..
 - ▶ Death via choosing to see God in suffering → impatience with authority → Low expectations → Low Love



SCHOOL

After Watching Video- what is School for, what things do you agree with? Disagree with? What things may have been over simplified?

▶ _____

These problems lead to many not being prepared for Christ's return because the power of the resurrection is undermined

▶ . What I see as problems in traditional Education & Church...

▶ Pharisee-ism: misplaced passions and abuses... Students feel the teachers cares more about a textbook than them. That they care about rules rather than hearing their voice. Those mistakes undercuts respect people have in authority...

PHARISEE-ISM

IT'S EASIER TO
CONDEMN PEOPLE
THAN TO LOVE THEM

Matthew 23:4 They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

Lack of respect for others and self.

- ▶ Paul said follow me as I follow Christ. Fear of Lord (and authority in general) is the beginning of wisdom- putting understanding into practice. That is being lost in schools today, but also in churches in part because we have been hurt internally. In a world where we have more knowledge at our fingertips, we have more people who are flat earthers!

RE-SPECT
MEANS...

to look
again

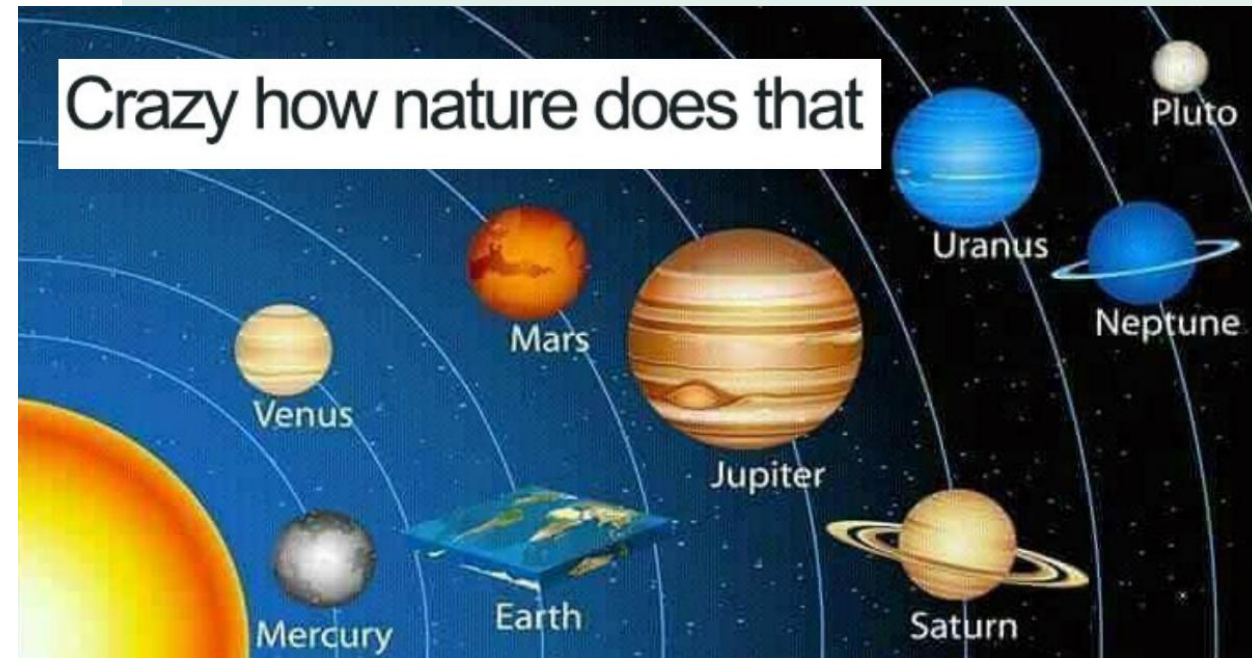
SELF-RESPECT
IS DEFINED
AS:

knowing
you're a unique
contributor
to the greater
whole

PEOPLE WITH
SELF-RESPECT
BEHAVE
LIKE...

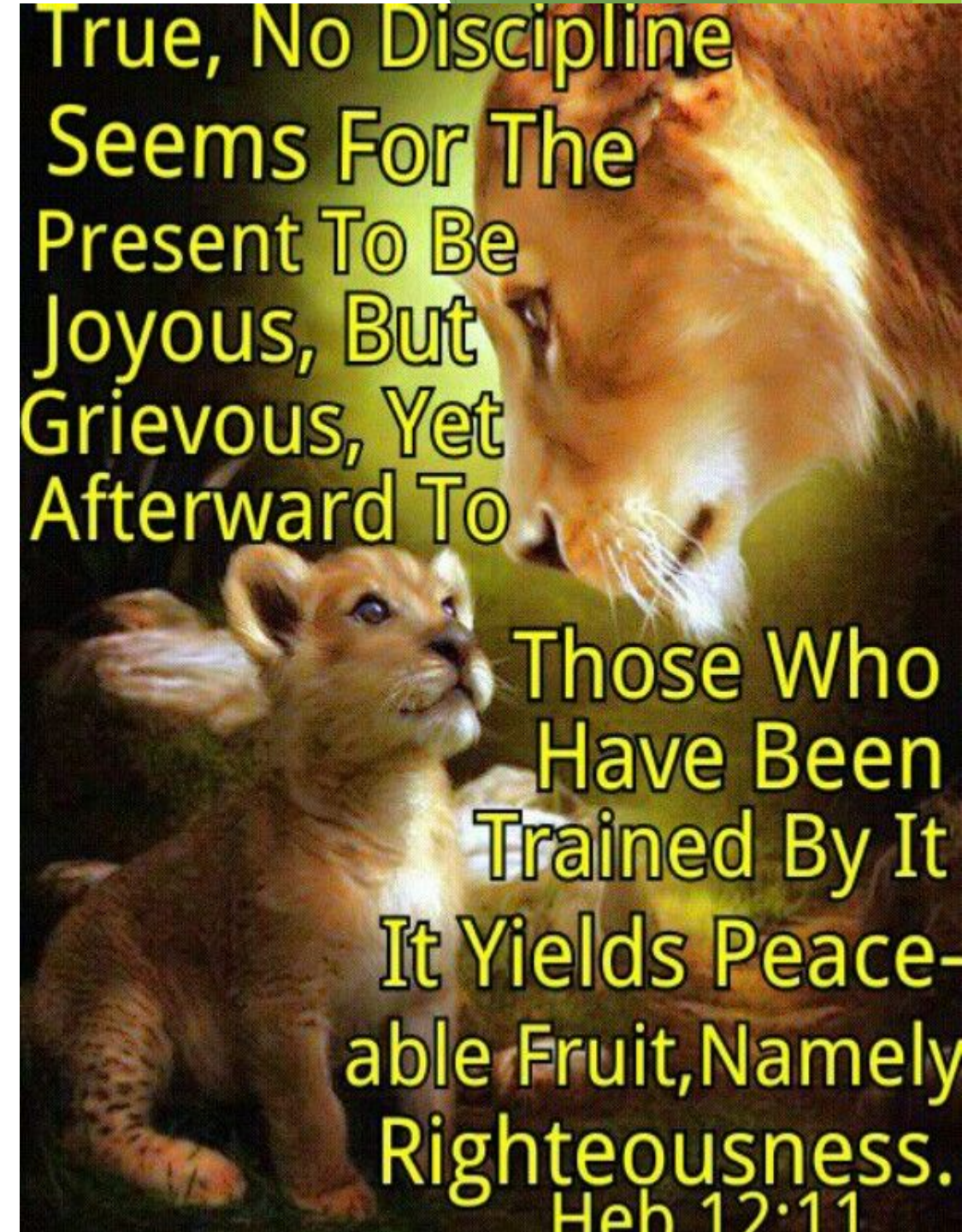
I matter.
You matter.

Crazy how nature does that



Lack of Discipline, passions, expectations, & more abuse result from lack of respect

- ▶ If you respect your parents, you listen to them, and begin to value similar things and respect their viewpoint because you have seen them live it and care for you naturally. Your passions are impacted by their passions, talents, skills and resources- like having a keyboard in the house. Abuse happens when there are too many expectations to be like a parent and no space for a child to develop their own voice and identity. Harmful neglect happens when there are no expectations with follow through and students/congregants can do whatever they want and they have no work ethic needed to become successful in anything from sports to math.



True, No Discipline
Seems For The
Present To Be
Joyous, But
Grievous, Yet
Afterward To

Those Who
Have Been
Trained By It
It Yields Peace-
able Fruit, Namely
Righteousness.
Heb 12:11

Love cannot develop where there is no discipline or high but healthy expectations

- ▶ Love cannot develop where there is no discipline or high but healthy expectations (needed to grow strong) or too much discipline or ungodly expectations used to control children, students or church members vs helping them make healthy individual choices in safe spaces (where mistakes can be made). Passions take time to flourish, as well as exposure to the world, potential gifts and healthy priorities. Once they are nourished, they grow in us naturally. The SAT model of testing does not show the true value of a person, nor their political leanings, but their unconditional love for the saints... That is how we should be known!

IF I ACCEPT YOU AS YOU ARE,
I WILL MAKE YOU WORSE;
HOWEVER IF I TREAT YOU AS THOUGH YOU
ARE WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF
BECOMING, I HELP YOU BECOME THAT.

- JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

**THE NEXT TIME SOMEBODY
COMES UP TO YOU AND
TELLS YOU THAT JESUS
DIED FOR YOUR SINS
GO LIKE THIS:**



**WHAT?
HE DIES?!
I WAS READING
THAT BOOK,
MAN.**

Becoming Wise- Spoiler alert!
We win
Having Hope and High Expectations
& understanding Judgement-Our
Consequences!

Michael Dixon
Life Church Boston
4/28/19

Review of what we have done so far.

So far we have talked about the 10 virgins as it pertains to being wise as we wait for Christ's return. Matt 25:1-13

- ▶ **Palm Sunday -How do we wait for a king?** Choosing to Allow suffering to help us to grow wise while we wait. Rom. 5:3-5
- ▶ **Easter-Why do we wait?- the heart of the matter!** Finding the purpose of the wedding, School and Church. How do we grow wise- Go to the right school... What is the purpose of our schooling through suffering, patience, etc. -to become more like Him- Loving naturally.

- ▶ Problems with much of Church and school

- ▶ Phariseeism- Missing the Big Picture eroding respect for authority..
- ▶ Lack of Respect for self and others eroding discipline and expectations.
- ▶ Lack of Discipline, Passions and expectations eroding love for self and others.
 - ▶ Heb. 12:6 The Lord corrects the people he loves and disciplines those he calls his own.
- ▶ Lack of love for self and others.

- ▶ **Today-** The power of God's high expectation for us to Wait.

- ▶ To help us reach higher. Matt 5:44- Love your enemies...
- ▶ To Judge those who are not Wise... and who miss the purpose of Weddings, school and church.

Next week- The Connections that help us to grow as we wait. Our nervous system- how we suffer and feel pain. These connections make us wise, If we choose to let them.

The Power and High expectations for us TO wait and **HOW to wait and Judgement if we don't wait**

The sermon on the Mount, is how Jesus started his career as a teacher, and it is chock full of High Expectations nuggets- Matt 5:21-26 for example.

High expectations- help us to reach beyond ourselves, but they do require trust in the coach, parent, pastor, teacher know how to bring out the gifts in us.

High expectations help us to clarify what is value and what is acceptable or not. Healthy High expectations from the God who made us is key. If you are a boss, you have to be clear about the expectations of your workers, you also need to fire employees who are hurting the company. Likewise with students, if they are hurting a class they need to be separated at least for a time to be clear about expectations... Sampson is an example of a person with great gifts and God's expectations on him. They shaped who he was, but notice the consequences needed to discipline him to change.

Judgement comes on those who do not wait well. The 5 Foolish Virgins were not just given a consequence but judgement... this is seen by God saying I don't know you...

A collage of movie characters, including Iron Man, Thor, and others, with a blue banner that says "SPOILERS" in yellow text.

SPOILERS



SPOILER

Working Backwards Requires Preparation!

- ▶ Wait wait, Don't tell me... Spoilers... Time Travel... Writing a good book Requires 4 dimensional thinking... You have to know how the pieces fit together bringing an ultimate climax along with some regular excitement along the way.

Avoiding Judgement (Separation from God based on a prepared relationship NOT works!)-

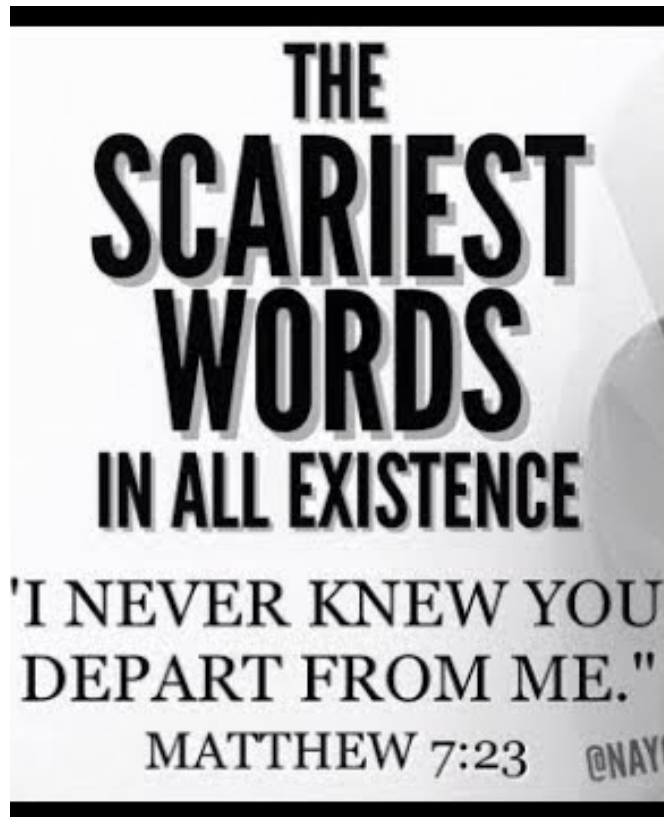
- ▶ This part of the story often get's overlooked... the 5 foolish virgins were left out...they didn't just get a time out... The People in the wedding said they don't know them! Very Scary words. That is Judgement.
- ▶ John 17:3 3 This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (NASB) '
- ▶ Mt 7:21-23 (NASB)21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many [n]miracles?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.

Being Ready Preparation....

- ▶ Knowing our Purposes (the Purpose of School, Weddings, Church) and Passion: (Last week)
- ▶ Avoiding Sin: This is actually generally easy for us to do most of the time, it is hardest when we are weakest... Avoiding smoking in some situations is easy for smokers, but after a while they get weak- then if they are not prepared they will smoke, especially if they were prepared with cigarettes! All 10 virgins were tired (weak) when they got the call, but only 5 prepared when they weren't tired and got extra oil and remembered via their checklist to bring it! The wise (who have trouble with the snooze button) move their alarm away from the bed so they have to get up to turn it off.
- ▶ Being Ready for Christ's return... You have one Job... Being ready for when Christ comes back! Will he find you doing His work? Jesus was ready knows the end of the story, as a result he shared what we need to remind us to be ready.

Matthew 7:21-23 Amplified Bible (AMP)

Love is deciding who you want to be with... God Judges our who our hearts pick...



- ▶ ²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.²² Many will say to Me on that day [when I judge them], ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, and driven out demons in Your name, and done many miracles in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them publicly, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME [you are banished from My presence], YOU WHO ACT WICKEDLY [disregarding My commands].’

Welcome to Life Church Boston!

- ▶ Make yourself at home
- ▶ Put Him First as we Worship!
- ▶ We love you!



Week 4: Becoming Wise- Is Becoming Connected!

Michael Dixon

Life Church Boston

5/5/19

The Power and High expectations for us Expectations :

1. What we are to do- Simply Wait- A high expectation in a distracted world.
2. HOW to wait- In a Prepared fashion.
3. Expectation, Support & Consequence if we are not prepared- Judgement if we are not present/ready...
4. Encouragement- We don't wait alone- We are connected...

TODAY-Finishing Expectations: High but healthy expectations (needed to grow strong) are essential for growth

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- ▶ Example- High Expectations and Questions and explorations- Video...

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Working Backwards... What Preparation is

Working Backwards Requires Preparation! Spoilers... Time Travel... Writing a good book Requires 4 dimensional thinking... You have to know how the pieces fit together (Connect) bringing an ultimate climax along with some regular excitement along the way. Yes we saw Endgame yesterday and it was good, I feel they learned from Dr. Who how to write 4 dimensionally. OK God did this first. This story is about the end of time, about Christ coming back- Will we be ready- to be ready requires knowing He is coming back!



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Knowing and Connecting with each other: Serving each other as image bearers of the Most high!

▶ **What is your identity? Is it as a Christian - first?**

You may be surprised if you treat people a certain way they may want to be a part of your team.

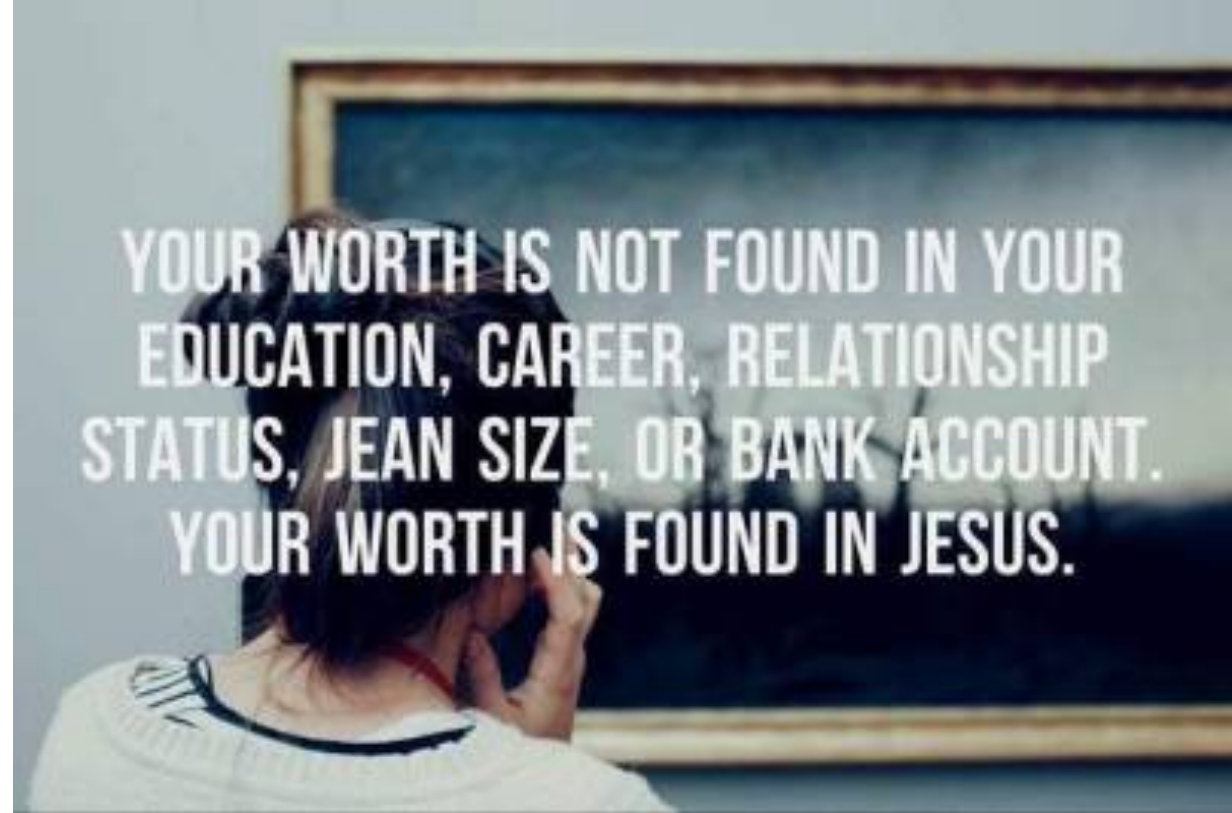
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Enemies or Those who aren't prepared, those missing the wedding?

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▶ **What does it mean for you to Wait where you are?** The impact of Seeing People how God does allows for a rich legacy... and unexpected connections and service to those around us to see our prepared love for them.

▶ **Example:** Liverpool's impact on the World via blacks in the military.



YOUR WORTH IS NOT FOUND IN YOUR
EDUCATION, CAREER, RELATIONSHIP
STATUS, JEAN SIZE, OR BANK ACCOUNT.
YOUR WORTH IS FOUND IN JESUS.

Connections make the wait very rich!

- ▶ Question- Why are the Beatles from Liverpool? It has 1/10 the population of London but was the 3rd largest city.
- ▶ Black soldiers had a big impact on Britain and the British had an influence and support of them as well. George Orwell wrote in Tribune: “The general consensus of opinion seems to be that the only American soldiers with decent manners are the Negroes.”

Source: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/12035018/Revealed-How-Britons-welcomed-black-soldiers-during-WWII-and-fought-alongside-them-against-racist-GIs.html>

They Brought their music of swing, blues, etc. to the clubs... Guess why Liverpool became the mecca of Rock and roll...

- ▶ Their influence impacted the World and even influenced The Beatles Sources: ... from records covers (like the Marvelettes Chuck Berry etc)
<https://www.readersdigest.co.uk/culture/music/ten-artists-and-bands-that-inspired-the-beatles>)
<https://fsgworkinprogress.com/2019/02/21/baselandia/>
- ▶ As Christians, we have to see the connections from the end of the story to where we are... As well as how connections God has given us impact us and supply real oil for our lamps. Like fighting for justice, valuing people who are different from us versus judging them. Etc. What are some unexpected connections that have blessed you, and how have you blessed others back?

