

WHAT TIME IS IT?

Matthew 25:1-13

Introduction:

1. In the mad rush of time, God and spiritual things are being left out.
2. The Bible gives references concerning conditions of our current time
 - A. There's little time for Biblical preaching (II Tim. 4:2-5).
(See II Thessalonians 2:3 and Jude 1:24)
 - B. Current times are like those of Noah & the flood (Lk 17:26-27).
 - C. Current times are also like Lot and Sodom (Lk 17:28-30).
3. The Matthew 25 account is a current example of today's church.

I. (vv. 3-4) TIME FOR A CHURCH TO HAVE LAMPS FOR OF OIL.

1. Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.
2. Not all church members had oil, yet they were dressed alike in wedding clothes and held the same office.
3. Matthew 7:21-23 – This is common in today's church membership.
4. Romans 8:9 – The Holy Spirit's indwelling is essential to salvation.
5. II Corinthians 13:5 – We're commanded to examine ourselves.

II. (v. 5) NO TIME FOR THE CHURCH TO SLUMBER AND SLEEP.

1. Matthew 24:42-44 – Watch for the Lord's return.
2. Matthew 26:41 – Watch and pray so you won't yield to temptation.
3. John 9:4 – Labor for the Lord while there's still time.

III. (vv. 6-7) TIME TO GET SPIRITUALLY FIT BEFORE JESUS COMES.

1. Five were looking to others for oil instead of looking to God.
2. Their hearts and lives were empty of God's Holy Spirit.
3. Their names were not in God's record book.
4. I Thessalonians 4:16-17 – The Lord's return will be instantly.
5. John 10:26-27 – Only the sheep will hear Jesus's voice.

IV. (vv. 10-12) THERE'S COMING A TIME WHEN THE DOOR WILL BE SHUT.

1. The door will be closed for salvation.
2. The door will be closed for Christian service.
3. The door will be closed for laying up rewards in heaven.

Conclusion: What time is it in your life? (See Acts 17:30)

Matthew 25:1-13

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take extra oil with them; 4 but the prudent ones took oil in flasks with their lamps. 5 Now while the groom was delaying, they all became drowsy and began to sleep. 6 But at midnight there finally was a shout: 'Behold, the groom! Come out to meet him.' 7 Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 But the foolish virgins said to the prudent ones, 'Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.' 9 However, the prudent ones answered, 'No, there most certainly would not be enough for us and you too; go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' 10 But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the groom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. 11 Yet later, the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, lord, open up for us.' 12 But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 Be on the alert then, because you do not know the day nor the hour."

II Timothy 4:2 – 5

2 "Preach the word; be ready [a]in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires, 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth and will turn aside to myths. 5 But as for you, use self-restraint in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

II Thessalonians 2:3

3 "No one is to deceive you in any way! For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction."

Jude 1:24

24 "Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy."

Matthew 7:21 – 23

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one 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 miracles?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

Romans 8:9

9 “However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”

II Corinthians 13:5

5 “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?”

Matthew 24:42 – 44

42 “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. 43 But [ai]be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44 For this reason you must be ready as well; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.”

Matthew 26:41

41 “Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

John 9:4

4 “We must carry out the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.”

I Thessalonians 4:16 – 17

16 “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a [m]shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”

John 10:26 – 27

26 “But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. 27 My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”

Acts 17:30

30 “So having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now proclaiming to mankind that all people everywhere are to repent.”