
Words of Truth

Habitual Unpreparedness

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The culture we often see around us in the United States of America includes many bad habits. Among those many bad habits is the practice of procrastination. We live in a “fly by the seat of your pants” society. American living makes this easy. With convenience stores, fast food, overnight shipping, and many other amenities; it is easy for us to think we can let everything go because there is often a last-minute solution to our needs. This is not good though. We, as Christians, ought to be wiser than the people we find ourselves among (Psalms 119:97-105).

God’s word teaches us to be prepared. He even shows us lessons from the smallest of things to teach us things such as preparation. Consider this: *“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man”* (Proverbs 6:6-11). The Lord shows us that ants, without any provocation, are not lazy. They spend their time preparing and gathering. They don’t starve in the winter because they have prepared. God says ants, among other creatures, are wise (Proverbs 30:24-28). If insects are smart enough to be prepared and are used as an example for us to follow, how dumb are we if we are habitually unprepared for things we know are coming?

Don’t let the world teach you bad habits. It may seem harmless at the moment to us, but becoming comfortable with being unprepared is not harmless at all. Learning to procrastinate is not a good thing to learn. Being people that are unprepared will cause us to be eternally damned. Think about that? Think about how this wicked world (I John 5:19) is not the best teacher for us (Romans 12:1-2). Modern conveniences will not save us when our Lord returns to judge the world. Let’s consider how we have to have a mentality of preparedness when our Lord returns.

We’d Better Be Ready For Jesus To Return

Jesus teaches us that we’d better be ready for His return and the Judgment. Notice: *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of*

Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” (Matthew 24:35-25:13).

We are supposed to be a people that are always on watch (I Corinthians 16:13, Colossians 4:2, and I Thessalonians 5:1-8). Watching requires being active and aware. Watching keeps you prepared and ready. Don't let the world convince you to be unprepared. Watch and be ready. Those virgins you read about above were unwise because they were unprepared. They were not excused or given another opportunity. You will have one shot at being ready. Don't waste it!

Conclusion

“Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not” (Luke 12:40). People have long thought that since Jesus has not come already, that the time is far off. That is false thinking (II Peter 3:1-14). Be on watch and be ready! Be prepared.