

GET RIGHT FOR THE FLIGHT

Matthew 24:42-44 & 25

Similar scripture *Luke 19:13-27* The parables of the Minas

A gentleman visiting a certain school gave out that he would give a prize to the pupil whose desk he found in the best order when he returned. "But when will you return?" some of them asked.

"That I cannot tell," was the answer. A little girl, who had been noted for her disorderly habits, announced that she meant to win the prize. "You!" her schoolmates jeered; "why, your desk is always out of order. "Oh! but I mean to clean it the first of every week."

"But suppose he should come at the end of the week?" someone asked.

"Then I will clean it every morning."

"But he may come at the end of the day." For a moment the little girl was silent. "I know what I'll do," she said decidedly, "I'll just keep it clean.

Prepare , prepare, prepare!!!!

Over the last few weeks God has been speaking to me about preparing the sheep. The last couple of weeks Pastor Brad has been speaking on hope. I believe this is the next major step in God's plan for this world. So today I bring hope to you by helping you prepare for the flight Jesus has for us... let's look at when the Disciples asked the Lord when they could expect the end of the world to come. (v. 3) Jesus tells them of the many things which will transpire in the last days. Then, in verses 36-51, Jesus makes a plea for men to be ready to meet Him when He does come. Now, the second coming of Jesus is not one but two parts. Part One is an event that has come to be called the "Rapture". At this time, He will raise those believers who have already died, and He will take the believers who are living on earth to Heaven to be with Him forever. Part Two will take place around seven years after Part One. This event will see the return of Jesus in glory and power. He will descend upon the world and will defeat all His enemies and

will establish His Kingdom upon the earth. He will personally rule in peace and harmony for 1,000 years.

Of these two events, neither can be said to be more important than the other, in the eternal scope of things. However, to those of us who are alive today, the Rapture is most important. Why? Because it is the next event on the prophetic calendar of God, and it will happen. In fact, it could happen tonight, tomorrow, or at any time! Therefore, it is imperative that men understand the great need of being ready to meet the Lord when He comes.

My desire this morning is to tell you what the Bible teaches us about this event known as the Rapture. And, in doing so, I hope to show you the importance of being ready to meet the Lord Jesus. Because, just as sure as we are sitting here, He will return! Now, let's take a few minutes to look into this matter of the Rapture and talk for a while about the need to "Get Right For The Flight!" lets look at this Hymn it says a lot about how I feel as a Overcomer

I'd Rather Have Jesus

Jim Reeves (worked with Billy Graham)

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold
I'd rather be His than have riches untold
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or land
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand
Than to be the king of a vast domain
And be held in sin's dread sway
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today
I'd rather have Jesus than worldly applause
I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame
Yes, I'd rather be true to His holy name
Than to be the king of a vast domain
And be held in sin's dread sway
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today

A powerful song that cuts deep to the point of what we should desire on this earth as we wait for our Savior to return for us. What should we expect will

happen on that day? Here is what the Bible says... 4 key points and 4 ways to prepare.

I. IT WILL BE SUDDEN

A. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 - The Rapture will take place in the twinkling of an eye. A blink of the eye has been times at 1/50th of a second. A twinkling is even faster than that!

B. There will be absolutely no time to prepare. Either a person will be ready at that instant, or he will not.

Matthew 25:1-13 The ten virgins that took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. They wanted the wise virgin's oil, but they had to go out and get more. As they did, Jesus the Master returned. They came back too late, and they were not prepared for Jesus. When they tried to enter the room, the door was shut, and the master said, "*depart from me I do not know you.*"

1 John 2:28

And now little children abide in Him so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink from Him in shame at His coming.

Luke 18:8

I tell you , He will give justice to them quickly nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?

C. Bible is clear in its teaching that we should not count on another day in which to get ready, Proverbs 27:1, but that we should be saved today, 2 Corinthians 6:2

D. There will be no announcements made, no advertisements posted, the Lord will come and go for His church in a split second of time. (III. In the computer world, there is a division of time called the "nano-second". This is a span of time equivalent to 1/1,000,000,000 of a second. If mankind and his technology can achieve this, what can the Lord with His infinite power do?

May I remind you that right now is the only time you have. The only time you are guaranteed. Yesterday is a canceled check, tomorrow is a promissory note, today is the only spendable cash you have!

II. IT WILL BE SHOCKING

Many will expect to go with the redeemed, but will instead be left behind, *Matthew 7:21-22*.

Many have false hopes for Heaven, but do not be deceived, God knows the heart - *Psalms 44:21*.

There is only one way of salvation today, *John 3:3,7*. This new birth can only come about through one person, *Acts 4:12*. And, when it is obtained, it carries with it a priceless guarantee, *John 3:16; John 14:1-3*.

Don't be shocked after the Rapture, be sure this morning - *2 Peter 1:10; 2 Cor. 13:5*

III. IT WILL BE SATISFYING

There will be a glad reunion at that time, *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*. Loved ones, saints of old, Jesus, the Heavenly Father will all be there.

There will be eternal blessing, *1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 21:4*. There will be only good things there!

There will be a new body, *1 Corinthians 5:51-53*. No more death, disease, aging, pain, etc.

There will be a new home. (III. We are pilgrims this evening - *Hebrews 11:30*) One day, we will go home to live in Heaven. (Streets of gold, no night, no sin, no curse, nothing but glory forever!)

It is satisfying to know that I have been made ready through faith in Jesus – *Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9*

IV. IT WILL BE SAD THOSE LEFT BEHIND

Why sad? Because some who are sitting here this morning or watching livestream may not be ready to meet Jesus. If He were to come right now, you would never have another opportunity to be saved.

Why sad? Because if the Rapture takes place tonight, I will never see you that are lost ever again. No matter how you look at it, that is a sad thing.

However, you can be made ready right now, all you must do is come to Jesus by faith and He will save your soul, *John 6:37*, and keep you, *1 Peter 1:5* and take you to Heaven when He returns for His people.

John 6:37

I look forward to the Rapture. It will be a time of freedom for me, I will simply leave this old world with its problems, sin, and death behind and will ascend to Heaven *John 6:37* **Everyone the Father gives Me will come to Me**, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away. All those the father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. However, those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them. This could be you today!!

The question is, what will happen to you? If Jesus came right now, would you go to be with Him, or would you be left behind to endure what is to come? Is your future in Heaven, or in Hell? If there is the slightest hint of doubt about your relationship to the Lord Jesus, I beg you please give Him your full heart this morning and get right for the flight.

So how can we be ready for the flight ? I am now going to ask my daughter Sarina to come up and give me a hand.

1. Surrender your heart (*Proverbs 23:26*)
2. Submit your life (*James 4:7*) Submit to Him and He will make your path straight.
3. Repent from your sin (*1 John 1:9*) this will allow you to live a Holy and Godly life (*2 Peter 3:10-12*) And become an Overcomer

Closing

A gardener for a large estate in northern Italy was conducting a visitor through the castle and the beautiful, well-groomed grounds. As the visitor had lunch with the gardener and his wife, he commended them for the beautiful way they were keeping the gardens. He asked, “By the way, when was the last time the owner was here?”

“About ten years ago.” The gardener replied.

The visitor asked, “Then why do you keep the gardens in such an immaculate, lovely manner?”

The gardener replied, “Because I’m expecting him to return.”

“Is he coming next week?”

The gardener replied, “I don’t know when he is coming, but I am expecting him today.”—Source Unknown

Let us get ready for the flight!!

After Service Song: I’ll Fly Away