



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion
80 – Minor Lessons

Announcements:

8/9 @7:30 -

Prayer

8/10 @6:30 -

Grace Group

8/13 @8:30 -

Sunday School

8/13 @6:00 -

FAMILY NIGHT

Small Groups!

ICE BREAKER: What is the best party/event you have ever been to? What made it so good?

READ: Matthew 25:1-13

One of the things that makes parables so wonderful (and often so difficult) is that there are layers upon layers upon layers of thoughts and truths and insights that we can find there. We have to be careful, because sometimes we can push them too far, but often the deeper we look the more truths and lessons we can find. And this parable is no different. On Sunday we covered what I saw as the three biggest lessons that we can find in understanding this parable, but there are some smaller lessons or thoughts that we can look at. These are not main points, but just little tidbits that arise when we contemplate God's words to us.

The first comes in verse 5: "As the bridegroom was delayed, they ALL became drowsy and slept". In a few weeks we will look at Jesus praying in the garden and him reprimanding his disciples for not staying awake "one hour" (Matthew 26:40), but that is not the lesson here. The foolish AND the wise girls all fell asleep, because the bridegroom was delayed. We may all grow tired. We all will long for him to come, we will all have the experience of hoping he would come sooner, that is all part of the life of the believer waiting for the return of Christ. We may grow "drowsy" -- the measure is not the drowsy-ness but rather the heart to spring up when he does arrive!

DISCUSS: What lessons or thoughts are there to learn from this verse? What should we do in light of this?

The next thought comes in thinking about the five foolish women going to the dealer to buy oil for their lamps. We might not get this right off the bat, but this would have been a huge hassle for both them, and for the dealer. WE live in a world with 24 hour Walmarts and places that are open if we need something, but this was not the case 2000 years ago. In all likelihood these women would be pounding on the door of the merchant's house at some crazy hour of the night, waking up his kids and causing quite a stir. The "minor lesson" here is that our foolishness might affect the lives of people around us. Because the girls were not prepared, even the merchant suffered!

DISCUSS: What is the consequence of this "lesson"? Why is it important for us to think about this?

The third lesson that I would like to look at is the most heartbreaking one. The five foolish women come back from their shopping trip (one commentator notes, we don't know if they were successful or not, just that they finally get back to the feast) just to find the door shut. "Lord, Lord, open to us" is their call. But the door remains shut. We noted on Sunday that this taught us that "sometimes it's too late" but the tragedy here is that they still do not get it. They think that they can, or should be let in. Maybe it is because they think too highly of themselves, maybe they don't understand the importance of the bridegroom, maybe it is something else, but as they are knocking at the door demanding to be let in their hearts are shown to still be hard. Even with the door slammed in their face, they remain foolish!

DISCUSS: In what ways might we see this lesson playing out today? What is the remedy?