

Eugene Peterson, A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

Matthew 25:1-13
Sunday, 20th October '24

3. No one can be prepared for us

vv7-9

Intro

“The day will never arrive when you finally have everything under control - when the flood of emails has been contained; when your to-do lists have stopped getting longer; when you’re meeting all your obligations at work and in your home life; when nobody’s angry with you for missing a deadline or dropping the ball; and when the fully optimised person you’ve become can turn, at long last, to the things life is really supposed to be about. Let’s start by admitting defeat: none of this is ever going to happen.” (Oliver Burkeman, Four Thousand Weeks, Loc. 371)

“Preparing for the unexpected can be a bit daunting, but there are several strategies you can use to feel more ready.” (ChatGPT)

Matthew 24 + 25

Matthew 24:42, 44

1. We don't know when Jesus will return

vv1-4

- The bridegroom

vv5-6

v13

“you do not know”

- Matthew 24:48
- Matthew 25:5
- Matthew 25:19

“I think that covers all the logical possibilities and ought to put a stop to Christian guesswork about the timing of the end once and for all.” (Craig Blomberg)

“We have been given neither the authority nor the ability to decipher the timing of Christ's coming.” (Douglas Sean O'Donnell, Preaching the Word: Matthew, p.729)

2. We must be prepared

- The bridesmaids

vv2-8

- The oil

vv10-12

2 Thessalonians 1:7b-10a

Matthew 7:21