**Bible Class Notes – *Studies on The Lord Jesus* – Lesson 153**

**The Saviour – Returning**

**The Saviour Returning – Exactly As He Promised.**

* **Introduction – Do we live in a world that will never end?**

**Who knows the future? Do you? Should it concern us?**

**Many mistakenly say, “The world will always be, it has evolved over millions of years.”**

So, surely it will continue for millions of years to come.

Some argue that man can influence the continuing existence of the world.

We have the pressure group Extinction Rebellion, The Greens etc.

Yes. We should take care of all that God has given us.

**But God is in charge. He is Sovereign and Omnipotent. All powerful.**

**He has said He will end the world at His appointed time. Maybe soon.**

**He has promised to create a New Eternal Heaven and a New Eternal Earth**

**God’s Accurate Prophesies and Promises.**

**Short-term** – **Immediately Fulfilled. Almost 2,000 years ago** Christ prophesied His arrest, false trial, and crucifixion **(AD 33)**, and the destruction of the Temple, which came true in **AD70 when the Romans, under Titus, burnt it down.**

**Longer-term** **– Until the end of time – These are happening now: - Matthew 24**

1. Increase in wars, famines, pestilences, epidemics **(Covid19)**, earthquakes, etc. The news is full of these events. **VA**

Yet, men say they can improve things; looking forward to ‘Utopia’.

All the evidence shows that they are wrong. Things are deteriorating.

1. The Christian Gospel would be preached to every nation. **VA**

The TBS translates Bibles into many languages. Copies sent worldwide.

Missionaries, and now YouTube and Zoom broadcasts. Faithful Pastors.

The messages from EDT are broadcast and are available worldwide.

1. False prophets with their false religions would seduce many people. **VA**

Many claims that Christ would come at a specified date. **But Wrong**

Man-made religions, some with bits of Christianity in them. **But Wrong.**

More dangerously are those which sound Christian – but are mixed with error.

**2**

Some claim new truth has been given to them. Not so The Bible is Complete.

Prosperity Gospel, Love Jesus (without repentance), Formal (Roman Catholic)

1. **The Lord has promised to return, to judge the world and usher in eternity.**

***We learnt about His Transfiguration and His triumphal ride into Jerusalem.***

***We saw that the Old Testament Prophecies relating to His birth came to pass in every detail.***

***So, we can be confident that these long-term prophesies will come to pass.***

**The Lord Jesus Christ will come again in power and in glory. VA**

***Are you moved by Christ’s prophesies to come again?***

***OR, Will you be ‘caught out’, unprepared for this certain and awesome event?***

**The Lord told this parable to drive home to us the importance of being ready when He come again.**

**The Parable of the 10 Bridesmaids (Virgins) and The Wedding.**

1. The eastern bridegroom came at night to the bride’s house to begin the marriage ceremony.He would take her to his home.

The bride and her friends had looked forward to this day for a long time.

Even today, a lot of planning goes into a wedding. Date, the minister and the service, Who to invite, Bridesmaids, Best Man, dresses, etc. wedding feast/reception., where to live, etc.

1. Five bridesmaids were fully prepared and ready for the bridegroom.

But 5 were foolishly unprepared, and missed the bridegroom.

**The meaning of the parable: -**

1. **Jesus Christ – is the Bridegroom. VA1 Christ is the bridegroom**

How wonderful that the Lord likens His return to bringing his beloved Bride, (all true believers), home to Heaven.

**This is what will happen when Christ returns.**

1. **The Bride and the Wise Bridesmaids.** – represent all those who obediently look forward to His coming, in repentance and faith.

**They live every day as if today is the day.**

**3**

**The oil represents the Holy Spirit Who gives us faith, and brings us to repentance.**

**He helps us live obedient lives of testimony and witness. Ready.**

They will be welcomed into Heaven for the Marriage Feast of The Lamb, and then remain for all eternity.

Those believers who have died before the Lord returns will be resurrected and will join the Marriage Feast.

1. **The Foolish Bridesmaids.** – These are not real believers. **They were not ready.** Too busy living in this world.

**They were religious.** But not sincere believers.

Other things were more important to them.

**They were foolish, unprepared VA3 “Foolish, unprepared people”**

**Their attitude was VA4 “It will work out OK”**

**What is most important to you?**

**You know He is returning, maybe soon. The signs are showing this.**

**Do you believe He is coming?**

**Returning to end time. To usher in the Final Judgement.**

**Will you be ready for when The Lord Jesus comes?**

They tried to borrow the ‘oil of faith’ from others.

**This cannot be done.** You cannot borrow someone else’s faith.

It is a good thing to have Christian Parents – But they cannot save you.

It is a good thing to attend Church at EDT – But this does not save you.

**Being a true Christian is a personal thing.**

**A personal relationship between you and God**

You will have heard recent testimonies of believers.

They are all different depending on the person’s individual experiences.

**But they do have a common theme, which is of their Personal Repentance and Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.**

**They sincerely believe that Jesus Christ died on Calvary to save them.**

**Took the punishment for their sin**

**Their guilt has been removed. They have received Christ’s Righteousness.**

**They have the Holy Spirit welling in them. The ‘oil’ in the parable.**

**4**

All who are careless and not serious in seeking the Lord now,

believing that when the Lord comes, He will accept them as they are, will be disappointed.

These foolish bridesmaids, realising that the bridegroom had now come, knocked on the door expecting entry.

Sadly, the Lord rejected them, saying, ***“I know you not.” Matthew* 25v12**

**The door was shut. It is too late,**

**What terrifying words these are!**

**They are very final words. They cannot be changed.**

Some like to believe that God loves everyone no matter what they do, and that all will go to Heaven. This parable teaches us otherwise.

**The Day of God’s Grace is now, before He returns.**

***The Apostle Paul wrote, “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” 2 Corinthians 6v2***

1. **The Bridegroom Tarried. -** He delayed His coming.

**The Lord foretold this almost 2,000 years ago.**

We may be tempted to think He will never come,

He did not mean His promise,

or He has forgotten it.

**VA2 He has delayed 2,000 years**

We do not know when the Lord will return.

But we do know that He has promised to do so. **So He will.**

The actual date is His Sovereign choice and He has already set the date when it will happen. **Maybe very soon.**

***Are you ready?***

***Be warned. There are only 2 groups of people – those ready and expectant for the Lord’s return, and those who are not.***

***Which group are you in?***

**The Lord says to each one of us: -**

**VA5 Be prepared for that great day.**

**The Lord warns us, *“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man* (the Bridegroom), *cometh.” Matthew 25v13***

**5**

***Matthew 25v31-34 The Lord Jesus says:***

***When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of his glory:***

***And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:***

***And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.***

***Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.***

**Important Lesson for us Today:**

**What are the disadvantages of being a Christian? There are none!**

Don’t listen to the trick of the devil that it’s a hardship to give up the love of self, pride, this world and all its’ forms of sin in order to be a Christian. The benefits when we come to Christ in faith (the gift of God), with sincere repentance for our sin, far outweighs sin’s short-lived pleasure which only brings long-term emptiness and misery.

**What are these blessings?** Eternal peace and assurance of Heaven; close fellowship with God our Creator and Saviour; a daily prayerful walk with God desiring to please and grow more like our Saviour, Jesus Christ, by resisting temptation (Sanctification); being fulfilled by serving Him in witness and worship; faithfully looking forward to the Saviour’s promised return.