

# Notes & Quotes – February 12, 2012

## *Is There a Final?*

### Matthew 25:1-13

“For all sad words of tongue or pen,  
The saddest are these: ‘It might have been.’” – John Greenleaf Whittier

#### The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

1 "... the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' 7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11 "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' 12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' 13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Four Observations

➤ **The uncertainty of “the end” (v. 5-6, 13)**

Jesus told his followers repeatedly that they wouldn't know the day or hour.

Our energies need to be spent in preparation not in prediction.

➤ **The wisdom of preparation & foolishness of neglect (v. 2-3)**

- *Why didn't you live more of your days on earth preparing for eternity?*
- *Why didn't you devote yourself to know God?*
- *Why didn't you love your spouse more completely and your kids more unconditionally?*
- *Why didn't you work with a heart of integrity and with hands of skill?*
- *Why didn't you discover your spiritual gifts and use them to advance the kingdom?*
- *Why didn't you get involved in the life of the church?*
- *Why didn't you abandon yourself completely to Christ?*

I don't know

- *Why didn't you develop a heart for your neighbors and the nations?*
- *Why didn't you pray great prayers?*
- *Why'd you spend so much time pursuing position and power and wealth?*
- *Why'd you allow insecurities and fears and pleasing others to drive you?*
- *Why'd you spend your one and only life running so fast that you missed it?*
- *Why did you stop caring about the things you care about?*
- *Why weren't you prepared for the coming of the groom?*

I don't know.

The moment of examination is not the time for preparation.

➤ **The reality that some things in life cannot be borrowed (v. 9)**

**You can't borrow character.** You may admire someone's integrity or honesty or generosity but you can't claim it as your own. When it comes to living life we have to live it with ourselves as we are.

**You can't borrow faith.** You may appreciate or admire another person's relationship with God but you can't borrow it for yourself.

"A common charge is laid against our generation – that we are living on the spiritual capital of our fathers. What is meant is this. We want the world to be a place where human life is respected, where virtue is honored, where women and children are safe, where men obey the law of God... what are we doing to keep it so? We cannot have a world like that without a strong Church. Are we pulling our weight within the Church? We cannot have a world like that without people of prayer who live close to God. Are we making ourselves into such men and women?... It is our duty to honor the spiritual heritage from which we've come, not simply to live on it."

– William Barclay (1907-1978)

➤ **The call to be watchful (v. 13)**

Cultivating a watchfulness (for God) in our everydayness

"Let any man turn to God in earnest, let him begin to exercise himself unto godliness, let him seek to develop his powers of spiritual receptivity by trust and obedience and humility, and the results will exceed anything he may have hoped in his leaner and weaker days." – A.W. Tozer

**Song list from worship set...**

*Fire Burns*

*Psalm 18*

*Consuming Fire*

*This Is Our God*

*Want to Be Real (special)*

*Arms Open Wide*