

Week 29
April 5, 2009

A Question of Identity
The Parable of the Ten Virgins
Matthew 25:1-13

1. READ Matthew 25:1-13.
2. Describe your state of readiness for Jesus' return. Would you say that you are ready and eager for Jesus to come again? Why or why not?
3. It's possible to go for days and weeks without a thought of Jesus' pending return. Why can Christians be so thoughtless and forgetful?
4. Let's be honest: some Christians have an easier time believing in Jesus' death and resurrection and a harder time believing in his return. Why?

5. If readiness includes having a relationship in good standing with God, how is yours? Hot? Cold? Cool? Lukewarm? Why?

6. Are you learning and growing in this season? Are you an active and intentional apprentice of Jesus?

7. Are other relationships resolved? Are you harboring grudges or clinging to bitterness over wrongs suffered? This is apparently a big deal to Jesus.

8. Are you someone who invests in loving others actively and builds up the people that God puts in your path?

9. Are kingdom values your values? Or do you tend to struggle with adopting the world's values? Are you attached to material things? What effect do they have on your pursuit of God's priorities?

10. Do you revel at the thought of heaven, or do you fear it? If you fear death or Christ's return, what aspect do you really fear?

For the hardcore group:

Some Christians believe that a healthy fear of God "is the beginning of wisdom." Others say that Christ has removed the need to fear God. Some Christians talk about dancing through the gates of heaven. Others speak of falling on their faces in trembling awe and submission. What about you and why? What do we teach our children?