CHARIS CHRISITAN CENTRE

SERMON NOTES

DATE : 19 OCTOBER, 2008
SPEAKER : REV. LAWRENCE YAP
TOPIC : **DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND!**
TEXT : MATT. 25: 1-13

The preceding chapter to today's text showed us the signs of the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus. With the Second Coming of our Lord, we are told about the rapture in **1 Thess. 4: 15-18, 1 Thess. 5: 1-9 & Rev. 16. 1-15. Let us pray that none of us are being skeptical about the rapture but rather it should put a Holy fear in our hearts.**

Today's text tells us how to prepare for the Coming of our Lord.
Jesus followed up with 3 consecutive parables that taught us in what areas we should be paying attention.

1. The Parable of the 10 virgins. (Matt, 25: 1-13)

- **"Every person is responsible for his/her own spiritual condition."** There are things in life like faith, righteousness & the condition of your spiritual life that **cannot be borrowed.**
- With the parable of 10 virgins, **Jesus had intentionally indicated a portion of God's people will not be prepared for His Second Coming as shown in the unpreparedness of 5 foolish virgins.**

The 5 foolish virgins represent**:**

- People who are uncommitted; people who have little desires or passion for the things of God like devotional time, Bible reading, mission and prayers
- People who are so bogged down with life commitments and are not setting their priorities right
- People who do not view sins seriously & think that **cohabiting and pornography are not wrong!**
- People who have their own mindset on how to live their Christian life instead of **adhering to the guiding principles given by God in the Bible**

- Matt. 24: 37-39 = **These blessings that God have given us in our life can soon become a bane when we use these God given blessings to withdraw into our comfort zones. This is the very subtle threat of the devil – he cannot cause you to sin but he rocks you into spiritual slumber!! Therefore, we all have to be on alert that God is coming any time. It is time to search our hearts as the time of reckoning has come and know that God is no respecter of person.**
  We must pray that that we will not lose the glow of our first love for God that it will continue to burn steadfastly strong. Today, what is your spiritual condition?

2. The Parable of the Talents.(Matt. 25: 14-30)

- **"We need to use well what God has entrusted to us. We must realise and acknowledge that every talent that we have is God given."**
- Whatever your profession/career you may be in & even the homemakers, they are all God given talents. Therefore, **"shine for Jesus in your workplace/ schools/colleges/neighbourhood & be the light of the world and salt of the earth."**
- What is the legacy that you will leave behind? Is it of eternal value?

3. The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats.(Matt. 25: 31-46)

- **In this parable, Jesus stresses the importance of serving others in need. You are shaped to serve God by serving others."**
- What are you today? Sheep or Goat?? How are you using your God given life to serve others?

Conclusion:

- **Are you prepared for the 2nd Coming of our Lord Jesus?**
- **"Lord Jesus, help us to be awakened from our spiritual slumber today and to be in alertness that You are coming soon."**