

Signs of Christ's Coming: The Tragedy of Wasted Opportunity, Part 11

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 25.

B. Opportunity can be tragically wasted. (Proverbs 10:5, Psalm 69:13, Isaiah 55:6, Jeremiah 8:7, Psalm 95:6-8, Hebrews 3, 2 Corinthians 6:2, John 12:35-36)

C. No one knows when Jesus will return—God wants all to be ready for Christ's return and holding back the hour and the day helps to stir this.

II. The Parable of the Talents emphasizes the work we are to do until Jesus returns.

A. Work needs to be held in balance with waiting.

B. We must be waiting all the time and working as well.

C. True faith works. (James 2)

III. The time before the Lord returns is a time for spiritual opportunity.

A. The responsibility we receive.

1. The kingdom of heaven can refer to the invisible body of people who are the redeemed. (Matthew 18:3; 25:34)

2. The kingdom can refer to an outward visible entity also. (Matthew 13)

3. There will always be those who appear to be in the kingdom but are not.

4. In the parable, Jesus apportions responsibility according to ability. This is according to God's sovereign design.

5. Our responsibility is to give God back maximum return.

B. The reaction we have: be faithful to maximize your opportunity.

C. The reckoning we face: the Lord will come back to see what each has done with his or her spiritual privilege.

D. The reward we gain.

Application questions:

1. Why do you think God has withheld the time of Christ's return?

2. What does it practically look like to wait for Jesus' return?

3. How would you explain the kingdom of God to someone?
