

Ordinary Time : Extra – Ordinary Days

Do You have Enough Oil?

Matthew 25:1-13

- i. Delay is difficult.
- ii. We need a SLOW CHURCH posture to help us wait well.
- iii. This is the second sermon in Matthew's gospel-positing Jesus as the new Moses.
- iv. In the story waiting for Christ to return is like waiting for the bridegroom to arrive.

3 QUESTIONS TO HELP US WAIT WELL IN THE MIDST OF A DIFFICULT DELAY...

I. WHAT IS THIS STORY ABOUT?

- a. The groom represents Christ-We do not know when he will arrive.
- b. 10 Bridesmaids (all sleep and have lamps)
 - 1. 5 are ready
 - 2. 5 are not ready
 - 3. Notice what this is not about:
 - a. Not about a lack of urgency. There is still time.
 - b. Not about high anxiety with storehouses with stockpiles to meet every contingency.
- c. What does the oil represent? Oil understood as faith, practices and resilient spiritual reserves that remain constant and shine during good times and in times of delay in the wait.
- d. We need to adjust, like the early church, that Jesus does not return on our timetable or according to our agenda. Their mission was to wait expectantly in faith, courage and hope.
- e. This is a story about hope in the delay.

II. HOW DO WE LIVE IN HOPE?

- a. Christ comes when people of faith live in hope and never give up.
- b. Christ comes when disciples show love, compassion and justice.
- c. Christ comes when critically ill and marginalized know that they are safe in God's care.
- d. The realm of God opens up on earth when we lean into God's realm in big and small ways.

III. DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH OIL FOR YOUR LAMP?

Call to Action: Do you have enough oil, so your resilient resources are ready when he finally arrives?