

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

“Good things come to those who wait.” So goes the saying. Waiting is part of our everyday life. Drivers need to wait for traffic lights to turn green before they can proceed. We need to wait for our turn to see a doctor, fix our car or renew our driver’s license. Some waiting is unavoidable, though we prefer an instant result. On other occasions, we wait with joyful expectation. Some people have been waiting for a whole year for Black Friday. They long to get a new phone or other items at a great discount. Because of the pandemic, many merchants begin their big sales earlier online. When we were kids, we could not wait to grow up. We envied adults because they have a lot of freedom and they do not have to listen to their parents. We hoped to finish school as soon as possible to make some real money. Then we realize that we have to deal with a demanding boss who keeps pushing deadlines to us. Single people dream of getting marriage. Later they find out the reality of raising a family with responsibilities, kids and bills. Some of you have accomplished all those milestones. You may now be waiting for retirement or grand-kids. Hope for a better outcome drives us to work harder. For example, an athlete needs to get ready for the next competition. We have quite a few marathon runners in our midst. Before a race, they go through a series of preparation. They follow a healthy diet and they condition their muscle. We are willing to endure some short-term inconvenience as we dash toward a goal. What are you waiting for at this stage in life? As Christians, we should always hope for Jesus’ return. In today’s passage, Jesus used a parable to teach us the proper attitude when we wait for His coming. Only those who are prepared are truly ready for Jesus’ return.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

The setting is part of a wedding celebration. Some details in the story may sound foreign to us. Let us go back to 2,000 years ago to understand some historical background. In the Biblical times, a Jewish marriage was arranged by the parents on both sides. It is just like our traditional Chinese custom. We describe that as dating after the wedding. You may remember Abraham sent a trusted servant to travel back to his home-town to look for a wife for his son Isaac. He met a lady named Rebekah, who belonged to Abraham’s clan. She agreed to go with the servant to marry Isaac. When you think about it, there were great risks. What if Isaac was not handsome enough, handicapped or had a bad temper? That may be the same deal your mom or grandma encountered. But Abraham did not bet on luck. He believed that God would lead his servant to find the right daughter-in-law for him. The story has a romantic ending. The Bible records that Isaac received Rebekah as his wife and “he loved her.” At that time a young man’s parents sent a delegate to do a search. After a prospective lady was found, parents from both sides would negotiate the terms. The groom’s family had to pay a dowry to get the girl. It could be a sum of money or together with some valuable items like jewelry. The dowry serves two purposes. The bride would move in to the groom and become a member of his family. Therefore, the money serves as a compensation to her parents for losing a worker. In addition, the dowry also provides a sense of security to the woman. If the husband later divorces her, then she has some treasure in her possession as financial protection. After both families settled with the dowry, an engagement ceremony would be scheduled. It usually took place over a year before the wedding. That would

give enough time for the families to prepare the ceremony, and for the groom to get his home ready for his future wife. At that time, an engagement was considered binding. The parents could not look for another potential spouse for their children. You may remember the story of Joseph and Mary. They were an engaged couple. God chose Mary to become the earthly mother of Jesus. She was conceived through the Holy Spirit. According to the Jewish Law, it was a sin punishable by death to be pregnant before marriage. The Bible says Joseph was a righteous man, and so he did not want to publicly shame Mary. Instead, he planned to call off the wedding quietly. Later an angel appeared to Joseph and told him God's plan. Then Joseph received Mary as his wife. An engagement was thought to be as serious as a marriage. Also, a wedding would be celebrated by everyone in the village. Even ordinary peasants prepared a week-long feast to entertain everyone.

Finally, the wedding day comes. The groom would go with his friends to get his bride and bring her back to the new home. That was the scene depicted in the parable. But before they went to the girl's home, the men would stop by every house in town to receive people's blessings. That could be quite time-consuming. That explains why the procession in the story arrived at the bride's home at midnight. The ten virgins were bridesmaids waiting patiently outside. There is no spiritual significance for the number "ten" nor their status as virgins. They were just unmarried young ladies. Since it was night time, each virgin had a lamp to illuminate their way back to the groom's house. Jesus describes half of the girls as foolish, and the rest as wise. It has nothing to do with their intelligent quotient. The wise virgins brought oil in jars, while the foolish ones did not. By "lamp" it was a torch with a piece of cloth tied to one end of a long stick. It is lighted up after soaking with oil. After the oil is burned out, then the fire will be extinguished. Therefore, extra oil will be needed. After much delay, someone announced that the groom was getting near. The foolish virgins then realized that they did not have enough oil. They asked the wise girls to share some oil with them. They refused because they reasoned that what they had was not sufficient for everyone. Instead, they suggested the foolish virgins to go to the store to buy the fuel. On their way back, the foolish virgins noticed that the door was locked. They pleaded to the groom to let them in, but the man declined their request.

That is basically the plot. What lessons did Jesus try to convey through the parable? Let us consider the context. Matthew chapters 24 and 25 form a complete teaching unit. Jesus alerted His disciples about the things that will happen when His second coming draws near. In the current parable, the arrival of the groom symbolizes the return of Jesus. The Lord used the story to urge His disciples to be vigilant for the signs of His arrival. The moral of the story is in **verse 13**: "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." The disciples must stay on guard for Jesus' coming. They would not know when that will happen, just like the virgins did not know when the groom would show up. Jesus brought up the same notion about the unexpected timing of His return four times in the previous chapter. Jesus used a series of examples/parables to illustrate His sudden return. It will be like the Noah's flood that no one can predict. It will be like a thief intruding into a house at night unannounced. It will also be like a master returning from a long trip without informing his servants in advance. This parable conveys the same lesson. We should get ready for Jesus' return by making suitable preparations ahead of time. Noah built an ark. A home-owner stays alert for a burglar. A faithful servant works hard even when his master is away. We should always be ready because Jesus may arrive at any instant.

The five wise maids were ready for the groom because they carried extra oil. They could leave at any time whenever the groom gave a command. In the church history, some commentators suggested that the oil symbolized the Holy Spirit. One support they quoted is from **1 Samuel 16:13** – So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah. Those Bible scholars explained that after the prophet Samuel anointed David with oil and made him the king of Israel, then the Spirit of God fell on David. But the verse does not clearly say that the descending of the Spirit was a result of anointing oil. In Exodus 30, God gave Moses instructions on how to prepare the oil. That oil would be poured on a priest before he performed a religious service. However, the same oil would also be smeared on some articles in the tabernacle. Look at **verse 26**: “Then use it to anoint the Tent of Meeting, the ark of the Testimony.” It would be strange to suggest that those objects needed the presence of the Holy Spirit in them. A general meaning for such anointing, whether on a person or an item, is to consecrate him/it to serve God. Therefore, even if anointing of oil may indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit, not every occurrence in the Bible carried the same spiritual meaning. It is like sheep in the Bible can represent Jesus. He was our sacrificial Lamb to substitute us for our sins. But God’s Word also describes us as dumb sheep when we go astray. The Good Shepherd brings us back to Him. In the case of this parable, it is hard to justify that the oil represents the Holy Spirit. How could the wise virgins share a portion of God’s Spirit to the other five girls? And how could the latter group purchase the Spirit from a local store? The oil was only an essential commodity to prove that the wise maids were well-prepared. The foolish virgins expected the groom to arrive. But they failed to get oil for their lamps. Perhaps you have met people who are interested in some aspects of the Christian faith. They are attracted by God’s love, moral teachings in the Bible or even the songs we sing. They agree that the world is on a path toward self-destruction. It would be great if Jesus comes to usher His people to heaven. However, they are hesitant about committing their lives to Jesus. Half-ready means not ready at all.

Why did the groom reject the foolish virgins? How can he be so cruel? Notice that he did not condemn them for coming late. Read **verse 12** again: “But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’” Did he not know the five girls because they had not met before? The point is that they proved they did not belong to the wedding party by lacking a critical preparation. A lamp without oil is useless. It is like you bring a flash-light to camping, but the batteries do not have enough power. I am sure some of you have driven your car when it was low on fuel. One morning I was on my way to our church. I knew my car needed gas. But as you know me, I am a stingy person. The gas price around our church is always lower than near my home. I estimated I should be able to make it before the gas tank emptied out. Before long, the warning light came on. Therefore, I stopped at a station and added just one gallon of gas. It was expensive and so I just replenished a tiny amount of gas enough to complete my journey. The problem was, the sensor did not reset itself. The red light was still on! I knew in reality that there was some fuel in my car. But in my mind, I still worried that my car could stall at any time. Worse still, I saw from a distance that the traffic was backing up. Was there an accident? Then I realized that some workers were repaving the road. I was so nervous because my car was still burning fuel even when the engine was idling. By God’s mercy, I managed to get to the next gas station (that sold cheaper gas!) to refuel my car. Lesson learned: do not bet on chance. Make sure there is enough gas in the car to avoid a potential heart attack. The situation in the parable was more than a

nervous breakdown. After the door was shut, the unprepared virgins could not get in. In fact, Jesus warned about the same consequence in other parables. For example, in the parable of the talents, Jesus told us the destiny of the lazy servant who did nothing with the money the master entrusted him. Read [Matthew 25:30](#) – “And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Similar expressions of being abandoned are repeated in other parables in Matthew 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51, etc. The message is clear: it will be too late to get saved after Jesus arrives. There will be no second chance. A story was told that Satan was having a board meeting. He wanted to solicit ideas about how to keep people from becoming Christians. One demon suggested: “We can tell people that there is no heaven.” Satan responded: “It won’t work. Who doesn’t want to go to heaven?” Another agent proposed: “I can convince everyone that there is no hell.” Satan disliked it: “Bad idea. They all know hell is real.” A third devil advised: “I will mislead people into thinking that there is always another tomorrow. There is no need to hurry to believe in Jesus.” To that, Satan sat back with a satisfied smile. Since then, people buy into that lie. But the fact is that no one can predict the future. I wish everyone can live to 100 and beyond. But even with good nutrition, plenty of exercise, an effective health care system, advanced safety devices in modern cars and all the rest, no one can foresee when he/she will leave this world. God always welcomes people to come to Him. But they have to make a decision when there is still a “today.”

To the believers, how should we prepare for Jesus’ return? Jesus gives us some instructions in the context. First, we should be watchful for the proper signals. Jesus mentioned that when the time is getting near there will be prominent signs like wars, global catastrophes, rampant false teachings and wide-spread evangelism. Then He says in [Matthew 24:33](#) – “Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door.” We should keep an eye on what is happening in the world. Second, we should faithfully carry out the duties God entrusts us. In another parable in chapter 25, Jesus said those who look forward to His return will diligently invest the resources God has given them. The same compliment was given to the two servants who earned 100% profit for the master. Read [25:21](#) – “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’” We should put the time, resources and opportunities God blesses us to good use. We serve Him when we are still in the world. Jesus will evaluate our work according to our faithfulness when we see Him in glory.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

Only those who are prepared are truly ready for Jesus’ return. There are a few important lessons in this parable. First, Jesus will definitely come back, though no one knows when. Second, spiritual wisdom is showed by our readiness. Third, only those who are ready for Jesus’ return will have a seat in heaven. Fourth, a decision to receive Jesus must be made in this life. Good things do not only come to those who wait. In God’s eyes, good things only come to those who wait with proper preparation. When Jesus returns, those who are ready will receive His compliment and rewards. Those who are unprepared will receive judgment and eternal penalty. Today, we are waiting for Jesus. But Jesus is also waiting for those who do not know Him to turn to Him. The book of Revelation tells us that there will be a future banquet in heaven. The celebration will begin after the door is shut. Will our family members, close friends, colleagues and neighbors be among the guests?

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

俗話說：「好東西會留給那些願意等待的人。」等待是我們日常生活的一部分。駕車的人需要等待交通燈變綠後才能起步。我們去看醫生、修理汽車或換駕照都需要排隊。有些等待是無法避免的，儘管我們希望有立時的結果。在其他情況下，我們充滿喜悅地等待著。有些人等待黑色星期五等了整整一年。他們渴望買到便宜的新手機或其他產品。由於疫情的緣故，許多商人提早在網上開始了大減價。當我們還是孩子的時候，我們迫不及待地想要長大。我們羨慕大人，覺得他們有很多自由，而且他們不再需要聽父母的話。我們希望盡快畢業，開始賺錢。然後，我們意識到必須面對一個要求苛刻的老闆，不斷逼著我們趕工。單身的人夢想著結婚。後來他們才發現養家、小孩子和付賬單的現實責任。我們中有些人已經達成所有這些里程碑。你現在可能正在等待退休或抱孫子。希望取得更好的結果會促使我們更加努力。例如，運動員需要為下一場比賽做好準備。我們中間有很多馬拉松選手。比賽之前，他們需要進行一系列準備。他們培養健康的飲食習慣，並鍛鍊肌肉。當我們朝著目標邁進時，我們願意忍受一些暫時的不便。在你目前的人生階段，你在等什麼呢？作為基督徒，我們應該盼望耶穌的再來。在今天的經文中，耶穌以一個比喻來教導我們，在等待祂的回來時正確的態度。只有那些做好準備的才是真正盼望耶穌再來的人。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

這個比喻的背景是婚禮慶祝的一部分。故事中的某些細節對我們來說可能是陌生的。讓我們回到 2000 年前，了解一下當時的歷史背景。在聖經時代，猶太人的婚姻是由雙方的父母來安排的，就像我們傳統的中國習俗一樣。我們形容為先結婚後約會。你可能還記得亞伯拉罕差派一位可靠的老僕人回到家鄉，為兒子以撒尋找妻子。他遇到了一位名叫利百加的女孩，她和亞伯拉罕屬於同一個家族。她同意跟僕人回去嫁給以撒。想想看，她其實要面對很大的風險。如果以撒不夠英俊、殘障或壞脾氣怎麼辦？你的媽媽或祖母可能會遇到同樣的情形。但是亞伯拉罕沒有靠運氣，他相信神會帶領他的僕人找到適合的媳婦。這個故事有一個浪漫的結局。聖經記載，以撒接納利百加為他的妻子，並且愛她。當時，一個年輕男士的父母會派一名代表到處尋覓。當他找到一個不錯的女孩之後，雙方父母便進行談判。新郎的家人必須付嫁妝才能得到新娘。它可以是一筆錢，也可能包括一些貴重物品，例如珠寶。嫁妝有兩個目的。新娘會搬進新郎家成為其家庭成員。因此，這筆錢可以彌補女孩的父母失去了一個工人。此外，嫁妝還給新娘帶來保障。如果丈夫後來與她離婚，那麼她還有一些財物作為經濟的來源。雙方談妥之後，便安排訂婚儀式。訂婚

一般是起碼在婚禮一年之前就進行。這樣，兩邊的家人就有足夠的時間準備婚禮，而新郎也可以為未來的妻子把新居準備好。當時，訂婚是具有約束力的。父母不可以為子女尋找別的配偶。你可能還記得約瑟和馬利亞的故事。他們是一對已經訂婚的夫婦。神選擇馬利亞成為耶穌在地上的母親。她是通過聖靈懷孕的。根據猶太律法，婚前懷孕是應判處死刑的罪。聖經說約瑟是個義人，所以 he 不想公開羞辱馬利亞。相反，他計劃悄悄取消婚禮。後來，一個天使向約瑟顯現，並告訴他神的計劃。然後約瑟便接納馬利亞成為他的妻子。訂婚被看為和結婚一樣的正式。另外，村里的全部人都會一起來慶祝婚禮。甚至普通的農民也會準備為期一週的盛宴來招待所有客人。

終於，婚禮那天到了。新郎和他的朋友一起去迎接新娘，並把她帶回新家。那就是比喻中描繪的場景。但是在男人們去女孩家之前，他們會先拜訪村子裡的每一家來接受人們的祝福。那可能很耗時。這解釋了為什麼隊伍在午夜才到達新娘的家。十個童女是在外面耐心等待的伴娘。十這個數目及其童女的身份並沒有任何屬靈上的意義。她們只是未婚的年輕女孩。由於是晚上，每個童女都拿著燈，照亮他們回新郎家的路。耶穌形容有一半的女孩是愚拙，其餘的是聰明的。這與她們的智商無關。聰明的童女準備了額外的油在罐子裡，愚拙的人沒有帶罐子裝油。這裡說的燈可能是火炬。在棍子的一端綁有一塊布，用油浸透後點燃。油燒盡後，火就會熄滅。因此，需要不斷地加油。擔擱了很長時間後，有人宣布新郎快要到了。愚拙的童女發現她們沒有足夠的油。她們要求聰明的女孩分一些油給她們。但是聰明的童女拒絕她們的要求，因為她們認為油不足夠所有人使用。她們建議愚拙的童女去商店買油。在返回的路上，愚拙的童女注意到門已被鎖上。她們懇求新郎讓她們進去，但那人拒絕了她們的請求。

這基本上就是故事的情節。耶穌試圖通過比喻傳達什麼教訓？讓我們考慮上下文。馬太福音第 24 和 25 章構成了完整的教導單元。耶穌提醒祂的門徒祂的再來臨近時將會發生的事情。在這個的比喻中，新郎的到來象徵著耶穌的再來。主用這個故事來敦促門徒對祂到來的跡象保持警惕。這個故事的寓意是在第 13 節：「**所以，你們要警醒；因為那日子，那時辰，你們不知道。**」門徒必須時刻警惕耶穌的到來。他們不知道事情何時會發生，就像童女不知道新郎何時出現。耶穌在前一章中曾四次提出相同的重點，說明祂會在人們意想不到的時間回來。耶穌用一系列的例子或比喻來形容祂的突然的再來。到時候的情況會像沒人能預計諾亞的洪水，或像小偷在半夜闖進來，或像一個主人從長途旅行中返回而沒有事先通知僕人一樣。這個比喻傳達了相同的信息。我們應該提前為耶穌的回來做好適當的準備。諾亞造了一隻方舟。家主提高警覺以防盜。一個忠實的僕人即使在主人不在的時候也要努力工作。我們應該時刻準備著，因為耶穌可能會隨時回來。

五位聰明的童女為新郎準備好了，因為她們帶著額外的油。只是新郎下命令，她們隨時都可以離開。在教會的歷史上，一些解經家認為油在聖經中象徵聖靈。他們引用來支持的經文之一是撒母耳記上 16:13 - **撒母耳就用角裡的膏油，在他諸兄中膏了他。從這日起，耶和華的靈就大大感動大衛。撒母耳起身回拉瑪去了。**那些聖經學者解釋說，先知撒母耳用油膏了大衛，使他成為以色列的王之後，神的靈便降在大衛的身上。但是這節經文並沒有明確指出聖靈的降臨是抹油的結果。在出埃及記 30 中，神指示摩西如何製造那些油。在一個祭師進行宗教儀式之前，要先把油澆在他的身上。然而，同樣的油也被塗抹在會幕中的某些器具上。請看第 26 節：**要用這膏油抹會幕和法櫃。**如果說那些物品也需要聖靈的同在是很奇怪的。恩膏的一般含義，是表示把一個人或是一件物品分別出來讓神使用。因此，即使抹油可能是表示聖靈的同在，並不等於每一次在聖經中的出現都帶有同樣的屬靈意義。就像聖經中的羊可以代表耶穌一樣。祂是我們的贖罪羔羊，代替我們的罪。但是當我們誤入歧途時，神的話語也將我們形容為愚蠢的羊。好牧人把我們帶回到祂的身邊。在這個比喻中，很難證明油代表聖靈。聰明的童女如何與其他五個女孩分享一部分的聖靈？後者又如何從商店購買聖靈？油只是證明聰明的童女準備充分。愚拙的童女等待新郎的到來，但是她們並沒有準備油。也許你遇到過對基督信仰感興趣的人。他們被神的愛、聖經中的道德教義甚至我們唱的詩歌所吸引。他們也同意，世界正在走向自我毀滅。如果耶穌來將祂的信徒帶到天堂，那將是很棒的事。但是，他們卻暫時不願將自己的生命獻給耶穌。只做到部分的準備就等於沒有準備好。

新郎為什麼拒絕愚拙的童女？他怎麼會這麼殘忍？請注意，他沒有責備她們遲到。請再來看第 12 節：**他卻回答說：『我實在告訴你們，我不認識你們。』**」他說他不認識這五個女孩，是因為他們以前從未見過面嗎？重點是她們缺乏關鍵的準備，足以證明她們不屬於那個婚禮。沒有油的燈是沒有用的。就像你帶手電筒去露營，但是電池卻沒有足夠的電量一樣。我相信中間一些人試過駕車時發現油箱快沒有汽油的經驗。一天早上，我正在去教會的路上。我知道車子需要加油。但正如你所知，我是一個小氣的人。我們教堂周圍的汽油價格永遠都低於我家附近的加油站。我估計在汽油用光之前我能夠到達的。不久，警告燈亮起來了。因此，我在一家加油站停下來，只加了一加侖汽油。因為油價比較貴，所以我只補充了少量的汽油以完成我的旅程。問題是，感應器的訊息沒有自動更新。紅燈仍然亮著！理論上我知道油箱裡有一點點汽油，但是我仍然擔心車子隨時可能會拋錨。更糟糕的是，我遠遠地看到前面交通堵塞。發生車禍嗎？然後我發現有些工人正在鋪柏油。我很緊張，因為即使車子沒有向前跑，它還是在燃燒汽油的。靠著神的憐憫，我終於到達下一個加油站，那裡賣的汽油也很便宜！我汲取了教訓：不要靠運氣。要確保車子有足夠的汽油以避免心臟病發作。比喻中的情況不僅僅是使人心驚膽跳。門關上之後，沒有準備好的童女便無法進去。實際上，耶穌在其他比喻中也曾提出同樣的警告。例如，在才幹的比喻中，一個懶惰的僕人沒有去投資主人交託給他的錢，耶穌告訴我們那個人的結局。請看馬太福音 25:30 - **「把這無用的僕人丟在外面黑暗**

裡；在那裡必要哀哭切齒了。』」在馬太福音 13:42,50; 22:13; 24:51 等其他比喻中，耶穌也重複了類似的被遺棄的描述。信息很明確：想要在耶穌再來之後得救就已經為時已晚了。不會有第二次的機會。有下面一個虛構的故事。撒旦跟一些小鬼在開會，他想收集意見，怎樣能夠攔阻人成為基督徒。小鬼 A 建議：「我可以告訴人們，沒有天堂。」撒旦回應說：「這行不通。誰不想去天堂？」小鬼 B 獻策：「我可以說服所有人，沒有地獄這回事。」撒旦搖頭：「這個主意不好。誰都知道地獄是真實的。」第三隻小鬼說話：「我會誤導人們以為總會有另一個明天。不用急著相信耶穌。」聽完之後，撒旦露出滿意的微笑。從那時起，人們開始相信那個謊言。但是事實是，沒有人能預測未來。我希望每個人都能活到 100 歲以上。但是即使有最好的營養、充足的運動、有效的醫療系統、汽車內先進的安全裝置等等，沒有人能知道他何時會離開這個世界。神總是歡迎人們來到祂身邊。但是要趁著還有「今天」時就必須做出決定。

作為信徒，我們應該如何為耶穌的再來做好準備？耶穌在上下文中給了我們一些指示。首先，我們應該留意一些預兆。耶穌提到，當祂快要回來時，將會出現諸如戰爭、全球性的災難、假教導和福音被廣傳等等的明顯跡象。然後，耶穌在馬太福音 24:33 中說：「這樣，你們看見這一切的事，也該知道人子近了，正在門口了。」我們應該關注世界上發生的事情。第二，我們應當忠心地履行神賦予我們的職責。耶穌在第 25 章的另一個比喻中說，那些盼望祂再來的人會妥善地投資神所交託給他們的資源。故事中有兩個僕人為主人賺了 100% 的利潤，他們得到主人同樣的稱讚。請看 25:21 - 「主人說：『好，你這又良善又忠心的僕人，你在不多的事上有忠心，我要把許多事派你管理；可以進來享受你主人的快樂。』」我們應該善用神賜給我們的時間、資源和機會。趁我們還在世上時好好地事奉神。當我們在榮耀裡見主面時，耶穌會根據我們的忠心來評估我們的工作。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

只有那些做好準備的才是真正盼望耶穌再來的人。我們從這個比喻可以學到一些重要的教訓。首先，耶穌肯定會回來，儘管沒人知道是在什麼時候。第二，我們充分的準備表明屬靈的智慧。第三，只有那些預備好迎接耶穌再來的人才會在天堂有一個席位。第四，必須在這今生中做出接受耶穌的決定。好東西不只會留給那些願意等待的人。在神眼中，只有準備充足的人才能得到美好的結局。當耶穌回來時，那些準備好的人將得到祂的稱讚和獎賞。那些沒有準備的人將受到審判和永恆的懲罰。今天，我們正在等待耶穌。但是耶穌同時也在等待那些不認識祂的人回轉。啟示錄告訴我們，天上將會有大筵席。門關上之後，慶祝活動便會開始。到時候我們的家人、好朋友、同事和鄰居會是其中的客人嗎？