

Does my anger at not having things run the way I want them leave me out in the cold?

I would have hoped that I'd have been repentant, on my knees asking for forgiveness, not angry because you should have asked me, so that I could have given you the right to come into the church. How twisted is that thinking. It's not my wedding; I'm not the centre of attention. I'm a servant. The church certainly doesn't revolve around me, thank God for that. The church revolves around Jesus and his will. He's the one who has sent us out to complete the task that his Father sent him to

do. Jesus said; 'As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' (John 20:21)

I'm definitely ready for Jesus return when I'm repentant, humble and on my knees, serving my king as I serve those around me with his love, him mercy and grace, sharing life daily with Jesus' legal assembly of citizens. As we together go as we have been sent, making disciples of all those we know and come into contact with; baptising and teaching them everything that Jesus has said.

The clear message of Jesus' parable is; are you ready? Now is the time to get ready,

because when the bridegroom arrives it will be too late. Let's be living ready.

Let's pray. Jesus, thank you for warning us that you are returning to judge the living and the dead. Thank you that you have shown us how we can live ready; loving one another as we are loved by you, going and making disciples of you. Please show each of us those areas of life that are distracting us that we might repent and be totally focused on your will. Come Lord Jesus Come and rule our lives today, tomorrow and forever. Amen.

9 November 2008

Parable of the Ten Virgins.

Matthew 25:1-13



As I was reflecting on this parable about ten people getting ready for a wedding, I had a weirdish dream about a wedding. It was here at Monarto.

I was floating around doing all sorts of things. Talking to people here and there, and then it was announced that the bride had arrived and I didn't even have my gown on. Panic stations. So I rushed out into the vestry to put on this old, stiff, dilapidated gown, which just wouldn't fit. And for some reason the door wouldn't close so everyone was looking. Then there were other people fussing around as well, trying to get this

gown to fit, but it just wouldn't.

Then I looked up to the organ and saw Robert Theile playing; looking very well groomed in a nice brown suit, with lots of children looking over his shoulder. And I thought, that's strange, I didn't know Robert could play the organ, just wait till I catch up with him.

And then I looked sideways and bang there she was. The bride was standing here at the front of the church. Not dressed in a traditional white dress, but she has shoulder length black hair, and was wearing a black, simple dress

with a white insert on each side.

And I wasn't ready! And all I felt was anger that nobody had asked me if it was alright for the bride to walk in.

I wondered if God was trying to tell me something.

After all if you have a wedding happening you don't drift around doing all sorts of other things. You focus on the marriage at hand. What am I to be focused on – Jesus is returning. I know that for sure. Jesus is returning to do what? Judge the living and the dead. And those who are ready will go in with the bridegroom to

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am

Pastor: Tim 0427326553

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Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

celebrate the wedding banquet, and then the door will be closed. Too late to change.	that I just couldn't get on. I spent time wrestling with it but it just wouldn't give, it wouldn't fit. What am I wrestling with that just isn't needed to grow disciples of Jesus? What am I trying to put on that doesn't fit a disciple of Jesus? What stiff,	Where are we as a church family? What are we wrestling with while neglecting to grow people as Jesus' disciples? In the end it is people who are saved. It is people who are part of Jesus legal assembly of citizens who will enjoy the wedding banquet.	Jesus has returned it will be too late to put them into action, gaining more people for Jesus' legal assembly of citizens. I certainly want to be using all my God given talents achieving his will, that people will be ready when Jesus returns. Ready to enjoy the wedding banquet with him and not be locked out.	ignored him and went of and did their own thing.	lose <u>their</u> temple and <u>their</u> nation!
What do I focus on; Jesus return or lots of other activity, and so neglect the one thing needed?				I wonder where I'm going off and doing my own thing ignoring what Jesus is doing? Jesus is out to make disciple who deny themselves, take up their cross and	The church, that's Jesus legal assembly of citizens, is the bride. What does Jesus want his bride to look like: a reflection of his love, or a lose group of individuals meeting when they have the time? When Jesus returns what do you think he hopes to find: rich individuals or a
I don't want to be caught having been active but neglecting the one thing needed: 'Making disciples by baptising and teaching people about Jesus.' Leading people into the Kingdom of God that they might become part of the legal assembly of citizens, surely that's the one thing needed.	<hr/> What do I focus on? <hr/>	<hr/> A living growing disciple of Jesus is a person who is ready for Jesus return. Their very being revolves around Jesus. I don't think you can be any more ready, than to be daily walking and talking with Jesus doing his will, to his glory, honour and praise.		<hr/> The bride wasn't what I expected and that caught me out! <hr/>	
	ungiving attitudes do I have that I am simply refusing to give up that are distracting me so that I'm missing what God is doing?		It also struck me that bride wasn't what I'd been expecting. That is one of the reasons the Pharisees of Jesus' day missed him, even though he was standing there right in front of them. Jesus just didn't fit their expectations. They had their own ideas about what the Kingdom of Heaven would be like, and because Jesus didn't fit their understanding they	follow him. What is Jesus most passionate about? What would Jesus be prepared to die for? Are they the things I'm living for?	community sharing life, loving each other freely with the gifts and talents Jesus has blessed them with?
I wondered, am I busy but unproductive when it comes to Jesus' kingdom?	My daughter is at an age where she needs her dad. How am I altering my ways of doing things to meet her needs, or am I still trying to force a lifestyle that doesn't fit this situation?	Then I wondered why I saw Robert playing the organ. The thought that struck me was; what God given gifts am I hiding, because once		The bride wasn't what I expected and that caught me out. It certainly caught out the Pharisees to the point they crucified Jesus to preserve what they were doing. They paid the price of Jesus' life so that they would not	At the end of my dream I was really disturbed that my emotion was anger. Angry because nobody had told me that the bride had already walked down the isle. Anger isn't the emotion you have when you're at a wedding banquet!
Then I wondered about that stiff gown					