

THE WEEKLY COMPASS

Devotion

Keep Awake: The Bridegroom Is Coming

"1 At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' 7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 "No," they replied, "there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves." 10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11 "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' 12 "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' 13 "Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)

Main Topic

Love Is Not An Option, It Is A Command

There are a lot of do's and don'ts in the world. The "don't list" seems to outweigh the "do list". There are do's and don'ts in the home, on the job, in schools, at theaters, libraries, hospitals, courtrooms, churches, etc., and in the Word of God. More often, it is the "don'ts" people don't like but we have to obey what the Word commands us not to do. The Word is for our own good. It is to help us understand and to do what is right. It illustrates and teaches us how to obey God.

Have you ever heard or said, "You may not like the food, but if you are hungry, you will eat it. I don't have money to waste and we are not wasting food in this house, because there are some people in the world who do not have food to eat." It was not an option; it was a command. The subliminal message was to "eat."

God says to love others. He gives us the command to do so. In Leviticus 19:18 He says, "... but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord." God did not say we are to like our neighbor. He commands us to love them. If you don't know, everyone is our neighbor.

God did not say He liked the world in John 3:16. The Word of God says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life". God does not give us the option to love others. He commands it

Questions:

1. How do you show your love for God?
2. Has there been a time in your life when it was difficult to love your neighbor?

Unifying Topic: Kingdom Life

Sunday School Lesson For February 23, 2025

Sunday School Title

Don't Be A Goat

Sunday School Scripture

Matthew 25:31-46

Main Thought:

The king will say to those at his right hand "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food..."
Matthew 25:34-35 (NRSVue)

Closing Prayer:

Father God, there are some in this world who are overcome with strongholds that are preventing them from experiencing Your love and preventing them from loving others. Help them to know that You have commanded us to love one another as You love us. Father God, send someone to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those that do not know you, so they will know that obeying Your Word and loving others is not an option but a command. For it is in Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

