

What is something you have had to prepare or be ready for?

- Going on a trip and you need to pack
- Participating in a sport's game

Let's think about going on a trip. What do you need to do in order to be prepared to leave? What happens if you don't prepare and just leave? What might happen?

It's important to plan ahead and be ready for what is to come. If we don't, we may not have what we need when we arrive on our trip, ballgame, or wherever we are going. If you forget your swimsuit...you probably won't get to swim. If you forget your shin guards for your soccer game, you won't be able to play in the game.

We see this happen in a parable Jesus told in Matthew 25:1-13. Remember a parable is a story that is told with a lesson to learn from it. Jesus told of a wedding. In those days, it was normal for no one to really know what time the bridegroom would come for his bride. So it was a surprise to everyone. (Read it or watch it [Don't Get Left Out! The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids](#))

Jesus was telling this story to emphasize the importance of being ready for His second coming. (What was His first coming?) The church/God's people are considered His bride. We don't know when He is coming back, but we do know we need to be ready. Just like the wise women in the parable.

If we are not ready when Jesus comes, we will miss out...just like the foolish women. We can't borrow from others, we must be ready ourselves.

#TargetPractice: What does it mean to be ready for Jesus?

We need to believe that Jesus is God's Son. We need to ask Him to forgive us of our sins and help us to be more like Him. We need to trust Him and follow His ways instead of trying to do things our way.

So how can we be ready?

- Pray for forgiveness
- pray for guidance
- worship God and bring honor to Him in all we do
- Serve others
- ...