

**Jesus' Plea to Prepare**  
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**Introduction:** God's word is a lamp in a very dark world.

- A. Have you ever tried to walk in a strange place in complete darkness? *It is unnerving!*
  - 1. None of us has the wisdom on our own to deal with the unexpected turns of life.
  - 2. Our God has given us His word to prepare us! (Ps 119:104-105)
- B. Jesus spoke of preparing for the rise and fall of nations. (Mt 16:2-3)
  - 1. He gave Israel as a specific example of how nations fall.
  - 2. Sadly, those that lived in darkness thought they should prepare to fight Rome!
  - 3. The zealots followed Jesus as long as they thought He would fight with them in their expectations and preparations. (Jn 6:14-15, 66)
  - 4. They prepared for the wrong battle and died violent deaths in AD 70.
- C. The Lord pulls back the darkness to give us wisdom and peace. (Jn 1:7-12)
  - 1. God shows us the light that must be the basis of real preparation.
  - 2. Do we trust God and His ways?

**I. Parables that urge preparation**

- A. Jesus used preparation for a wedding as a teaching tool.
  - 1. The 10 virgins that went out to meet the bridegroom. (Mt 25:1, 13)
  - 2. Servants waiting for the master to return from a wedding. (Lk 12:35-36, 40)
- B. Sadly men often ignore God's urgent pleas to prepare!
  - 1. We can become lax when there is a longer possible time element.
  - 2. We tend to forget and become overconfident as time passes. (1 Cor 10:12-13)
  - 3. How many superior teams have been embarrassed because of pride?

**II. The lack of preparation of Jesus' disciples and His enemies before the cross**

- A. Jesus taught plainly to His disciples about His death. (Lk 9:22, 44-45)
  - 1. These were good men but they were overconfident and did not listen well.
  - 2. They correctly reasoned to see that Jesus was the Son of God. (Mt 16:16-17)
  - 3. In the same context Peter disagreed with the Son of God!! (Mt 16:21-23)
  - 4. He thought that the Son of God could not be killed! Their own prejudices were not overcome because they did not seriously listen to God's words.
  - 5. We must never think that we are wiser than God! (1 Cor 1:25)
- B. Jesus pleaded with and then led his disciples by example to prepare. (Mt 26:37-41)
  - 1. Preparation required energy and trust.
  - 2. The mind and the will had to be prepared. Jesus could not slip even for one second! (Mt 26:53-54)
- C. Judas had more fundamentally ignored preparation.
  - 1. He had ignored his own heart and was blind. He did not care for others and served his own lusts. (Jn 12:6)
  - 2. How could he ignore such point-blank warnings? (Mt 26:24-25)
  - 3. He also thought that he had a sure and easy way to make money! (Mt 26:14-15)

D. His enemies were completely unprepared.

1. Why were the Jews indifferent to the obvious power in the miracles of Jesus? (**Jn 11:47-48; 12:9-11**)
2. They were so consumed by their own passions that they could not think. Ever seen a team caught off guard by lack of preparation?
3. The Jews, the Romans and Satan himself were not prepared for this day. (**1 Cor 2:6-8**)

### **III. Terror is a companion of the unprepared**

A. Terror can come unexpectedly and in many ways. Consider Belshazzar.

1. He was not prepared for the fall of His country! He was terrified. (**Dan 5:5-6**)
2. He is completely unprepared but he should have been! (**Dan 5:7-9, 22**)

B. Jesus' disciples experienced a temporary terror.

1. They prepared for the wrong battle. (**Mt 26:35; 52, 56**)
2. Peter was afraid of two servant girls. (**Mt 26:74-75**)
3. They now hid in fear behind closed doors. (**Jn 20:19**)

C. Judas experience a greater terror.

1. Because he did not have a good heart, he also did not have a good mind.
2. What kind of terror and guilt would cause one to take his own life? (**Mt 27:4-5**)

D. The enemies of Jesus will experience an indescribable terror.

1. Jesus warned the high priest. (**Mt 24:30; 26:64**)
2. There would be the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. What did Christians do when the armies of Rome approach Jerusalem? (**Mt 24:15-18**)
3. There would be the resurrection of the dead and an eternity in hell. (**Rev 1:7**)
4. Can you imagine facing God in the judgement unprepared. I can.

### **IV. How Jesus urges us to be prepared**

A. When men treat us unfairly. (**Jn 16:1-3**)

1. It is often personal hurt that can lead us down a terrible path.
2. What are we tempted to do? What did Jesus do? (**Rom 12:19-21; 1 Pt 2:23**)
3. We may be surprised at the moment we are treated unfairly. We must respond as a prepared disciple of Christ. (**1 Pt 4:4, 12**)

B. When Christians disappoint us.

1. We can be unfairly judged and treated badly by other Christians.
2. Should we be harsh to Christians and gentle to the world?
3. We have the greatest opportunity to influence others when we respond to hurt by the patient love of Christ! (**Eph 4:31-32; Col 3:12-14**)

C. When the Lord returns or the day of our death comes. (**1 Thess 5:2-6**)

1. We should live each day as if it is doomsday. Be ready! Stay ready!
2. I want to be found a forgiven person and a forgiving person. I must be both! (**Mt 6:15; 18:35**)

**Conclusion:** Are we a people prepared to meet our Lord?