

Scariest Bible Stories

9 07 08

Some Scary Stories

- **Number of disturbing stories in Bible**
- **4 such stories found in Mat 7, Mat 22, Mat 25**
- **Mat 25**
 - **1"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5The 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. 8The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'**

- **Mat 25**

- **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. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'**
- **12" But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'**
- **13" Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.**

**Why So Scary &
Disturbing?**

Disturbing Thought

- **Can go through our life waiting for the bridegroom (i.e. Christ), and at the very end, found out that we are not prepared for kingdom of heaven...**
- **How many were not ready/prepared?**
 - **Mat 7:22 – Many will say, “Lord, Lord..” But I say, “Depart from me.”**
 - **Mat 22: 14“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”**
 - **Mat 25:**
 - **10“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The (5) virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.**
- **Does the Bible tell us how to be prepared for the Lord?**

How to Prepare for the Lord

- Luke 1:

- 13But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. 16Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. 17And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, **to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children** and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous— ***to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.***"

- Understand about v. 16 & "disobedient"

But how does John's call
"to turn the hearts of the fathers
to their children"
make ready a people prepared for
the Lord?

Absence of Fathers throughout the past Several Decades

- **drugs**
 - **violence**
 - **teenage pregnancy**
 - **weak young men**
 - **See this in relatives**
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- **Fatherlessness Is one of the Most Destructive Trend in Our Generation**

Statistics From Fatherless Homes

- 63% of youth suicides
- 90% of all homeless and runaway children
- 85% of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders
- 80% of rapists motivated with displaced anger
- 71% of all high school dropouts
- 70% of juveniles in state operated institutions
- 85% of all youths sitting in prisons
- Nearly 2 of every 5 children in America do not live with their fathers.
- <http://fathersforlife.org/divorce/chldrndiv.htm>

Important Consequence

**How much more the need for
spiritual fathers in the church
today.**

When “the hearts of the fathers are turned to their children”

- **The fathers are saying:**
 - I am not going to be selfish and run away (ie. Dumpster)?
 - Yes, I am going to take responsibilities (physical & spiritual) over them
 - I will invest my time and resource in them.
 - I will be there for them.
 - I will teach them what’s right and wrong
 - I am going to train them in the ways of the Lord
 - I’m going to care and love them.
- **Imagine the spiraling impact!!!**
 - 1Cor 4:15-16, 1Cor 11:1, 2Tim 2:2, Gen 18:18-19, Mat 28:18

One May Say

- **“I don’t have time”**
 - What they said in Mat 22 (wedding banquet)?
 - Priority & choice
- **“It’s too much work”**
 - True. Have (spiritual) children takes effort (ie. Doorsteps)?
- **“I’m not qualified. Let someone else care for them”**
 - Sunday school, pastors
 - Not “turn the heart of pastors toward our children”.
- **“I am not equipped” (2Tim 2:2)?**
 - We (TF) desire to see each of you grow to be the spiritual “fathers” that God has called you to be.

Our Calling

- John was called to “turn the hearts of father”
 - 17And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, **to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children** and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous— **to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.**”
- We (TF) are called to the same thing!
 - “Turn our hearts to our (spiritual) children”
 - Often people focus on physical in this verse.
 - Note spiritual preparation for LORD
- We (TF) are going to encourage you ...
 - love them, disciple them, care for them, be an example for them
 - We (TF) will invest in training, retreats, books, prayers, lives

Investment: TF Discipleship (Fathering) Track

- To help turn your hearts toward (spiritual) children in community
 - Retreat (next weekend)?
 - Discipleship materials rollout
- 2) To equip spiritual youth to overcome strongholds for work of service
- 3) To grow you as a spiritual father
- 4) To grow you as a disciple maker (i.e. cell leader)?



Higher Requirements & Standards (Turning hearts toward children)?

- Everything that we do, the heartbeat will be “turn your heart toward the children”
- Retreat, Discipleship track,
- Cells, Prayers, Sunday worship

Why? Bridegroom is at hand.

Make Ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Stories do not have to be scary



Prayer

- **How do you feel about having spiritual children?**
- **Would you like to grow as a spiritual father?**
- **What are the obstacles? Pray for one another.**