

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

July 14, 2014

Procrastination

MATTHEW 25:1-13 NKJV – (1) "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. (2) Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. (3) Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, (4) but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. (5) But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. (6) "And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming. go out to meet him!' (7) Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. (8) And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' (9) But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' (10) And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. (11) "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' (12) But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' (13) "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

To procrastinate is to put off things that you should be focusing on, usually in favor of doing something that is more enjoyable or that you are more comfortable doing. To procrastinate in following the instructions of Christ is very serious! In the parable above, the theme is "preparation." Mind you, all ten virgins looked alike to the human eye - as if they were all pure. The truth was that only five were about God's business. This applies to us today as well.

If you have found yourself putting off important tasks over and over again, you are not alone. In fact, many people procrastinate to some degree – but some are so chronically affected by procrastination that it stops them from fulfilling their potential. The key to controlling this destructive habit is to recognize when you start procrastinating, understand why it happens (even to the best of us), and take active steps to manage your time and outcomes better. How do we do this? Turn your total attention to God. Remember, God could come at any time, by rapture or it may simply be time for our journey to end here on earth. Be prepared. We are stewards of the most high. It's not our time, but His time.

SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 9:4

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: If we are not praying, we must be playing.