

“Falling Asleep At The Wheel”
June 21, 2009 * Matthew 25:1-13

I. Jesus’ rhythm of work and rest:

*Mark 6:31 – “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place
and get some rest.”*

II. What are some of the signs of those who are spiritually asleep?

- A. They show it in the way they _____.*
- B. They show it in the way they treat God’s _____.*
- C. They show it in their lack of desire to _____
their _____.*
- D. They show it in the way everything they do for God is done
out of _____ or _____.*

III. What are some of the consequences of spiritual slumber?

- A. I’ll miss out on Jesus at _____ around me.*
 - 1. Will Judgment Day be the first time we experience
God’s presence?*
 - 2. Can a Christian miss out on Jesus working in them?*
- B. I’ll miss out on Jesus making me more _____.*
 - 1. According to Romans 13:11-14, the hour has come
for me to do what?*
- C. The _____ will miss out on Jesus because of
my slumber.*
 - 1. How so?*

IV. How Do We Avoid Falling Asleep (Or Wake Up If We Are)?

A. In the parable, why did the bridesmaids fall asleep?

<p>1 Thess.5:5-6 ~ “You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.”</p>

Two Attitudes I Must Have To Ward Off Sleep:

- 1. Never forget _____ as a follower of Christ.*
 - a. Can I recite all the good things I have as a
Christian?*
- 2. _____*
 - a. What is the greatest danger to the Christian life?
(Hint: Hebrews 2:1)*

Two Actions I Must Commit To In Order To Stay Awake:

- 1. _____*
 - a. What does Hebrews 3:13 tell us?*
 - b. And whose job is this?*
- 2. Be _____ - _____*
 - a. At the end of the day, whose responsibility is it
for my spiritual walk?*
 - b. Why are the foolish bridesmaids turned away by
the bridegroom?*

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I. Jesus’ rhythm of work and rest:

Mark 6:31 – “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

II. What are some of the signs of those who are spiritually asleep?

A. They show it in the way they **worship**. (Rev.2:4)

B. They show it in the way they treat God’s **Word**. (Isaiah 66:2)

C. They show it in their lack of desire to **share** their **faith**. (Prov.24:11-12)

D. They show it in the way everything they do for God is done out of **duty** or **ritual**. (Isaiah 29:13)

III. What are some of the consequences of spiritual slumber?

A. I’ll miss out on Jesus at **work** around me.

1. Will Judgment Day be the first time we experience God’s presence?

The truth is, you will cross paths with Jesus many times throughout your life. Jesus said, the Spirit of God is convicting the unbelieving world right this minute of its sin, and of the way to be right with God, and of the judgment that surely is coming. And God will show you on that day all those times and places. That song you heard on the radio. That Christian friend you bumped into. That sermon you heard. Those weird coincidences scattered throughout your life. And you’ll say to yourself, “Oh that was you. I wish I had been paying more careful attention. I wish I hadn’t been asleep.”

2. Can a Christian miss out on Jesus working in them?

We all come to crossroads in our lives where God stands poised to move us forward. To do a new work in us. He calls us to accept an assignment, to launch into a ministry, to try our hand at

something new, to finally gain the upper hand over a particular sin – He’s ready, but we’re asleep.

B. I’ll miss out on Jesus making me more **like him**.

1. According to Romans 13:11-14, the hour has come for me to do what?

“The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness; not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think about how to gratify the desire of the sinful nature.”

C. The **church** will miss out on Jesus because of my slumber.

1. How so?

If I am apathetic about Jesus, there’s a good chance that some of that will rub off on people around me. The church will suffer in a second way in a second way for my sleepiness. If I’m asleep, then I’m not doing the work which God has assigned for me to do, and consequently, I’m burdening other people with extra duties that had my name on them.

IV. How Do We Avoid Falling Asleep (Or Wake Up If We Are)?

A. In the parable, why did the bridesmaids fall asleep?

Matthew 25:5 says, “The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.” Meaning what? They were separated from Jesus. Couldn’t see him. Couldn’t hear him. Couldn’t experience him. They were going on the experience they had of him earlier, and banking on the promise that they’d get more of that experience later on. In the meantime, was this waiting game of sorts. In a very real way, that’s what this life is like.

1 Thess.5:5-6 ~ “You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.”

Two Attitudes I Must Have To Ward Off Sleep:

1. Never forget **who you are** as a follower of Christ.
 - a. Can I recite all the good things I have as a Christian?

There is nothing on this earth like true Christianity. There is nothing this world needs more than true Christianity. There is nothing that deserves your full allegiance and your life more than true Christianity. Because of Jesus I have forgiveness for all my past mistakes, power for my present struggles, and hope for the future. Because of Jesus my life has a purpose which nothing can strip away from me. Because of Jesus my life has a moral order to it that makes me into a better human being, far better than I would ever be on my own. Because of Jesus I can receive the love of my one true father, the father my heart has always longed for. And I can be healed of all the wounds and scars I suffered growing up in the family where I was raised. Because of Jesus, I know I'm never alone. I can walk into a room filled with strangers, and not be afraid, because Jesus has my back. Because of Jesus I am given strength to deal with suffering and life's insanity. Because of Jesus I receive goodness in life that wouldn't be there otherwise. You think this world is a hellhole right now, if you stripped real Christianity away from the last 2,000 years of history and out of this world right now, this world would be a nightmare beyond comprehension. Never forget who you are as a follower of Christ.

2. **Careless**

- a. *What is the greatest danger to the Christian life?*
(Hint: Hebrews 2:1)

Drifting

Two Actions I Must Commit To In Order To Stay Awake:

1. **Fellowship**

- a. *What does Hebrews 3:13 tell us?*

“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.”

- b. *And whose job is this?*

In a healthy church, there should be a flurry of cards and emails and phone calls and visits going out each week among the members. People ask me often, “How's so and so doing?” “I'm not sure,” I'll often say in reply. “Why don't you find out?” Don't just let God know that you're thinking of them. Don't just let me know that you're praying for them. Let *them* know.

2. Be **Self - Controlled**

- a. *At the end of the day, whose responsibility is it for my spiritual walk?*

I am responsible for my own walk of faith.

You cannot live on someone else's walk with Christ.

- b. *Why are the foolish bridesmaids turned away by the bridegroom?*

Later the foolish bridesmaids come and knock on the doors and say, “Open for us also!” what does the bridegroom say to them? He said, “I tell you the truth, I don't know you.” They are turned away from heaven because they didn't have their own relationship with Jesus. They never bothered to acquire the self-discipline and self-control necessary for a follower of Jesus.