



Preparing for Jesus' Return

- Fact of Jesus' return is certain; timing is uncertain
- **Parable-** true-to-life story that conveys one major spiritual truth
- **Matthew 24.45-** Who then is the **faithful and wise servant**, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time?
- **How can we be wise?** Parable of the Bags of Gold
- **How can we be prepared?** Parable of the Ten Virgins

Be Prepared

■ End accompanied by difficulty:

- false prophets and false Messiahs will deceive many
- Wars and rumors of wars, famines, earthquakes
- Christians will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and will be hated by all nations
- Many will turn away from the faith and because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold

■ The one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

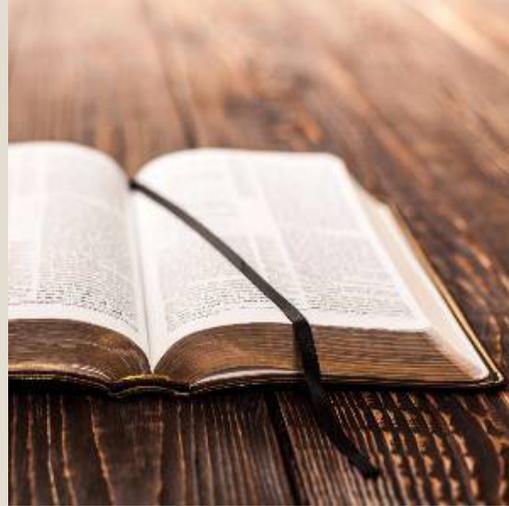
■ **Rocky soil-** someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.



Develop Deep Roots



Prayer



Bible Reading



**Personal
Worship**



**Journaling/
Reflection**

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- 2Cor 1.21- It is God who makes us stand firm in Christ
 - Commit to one practice at greater level for 3mos, 6mos, or 12mos
 - Don't quit when you fail
 - Expect unobservable growth



Be Obedient

- Do what God wants with what He gives you
- No pressure- God rewards obedience not results
- Jim Elliot- He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.
- Matt 16.25- whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

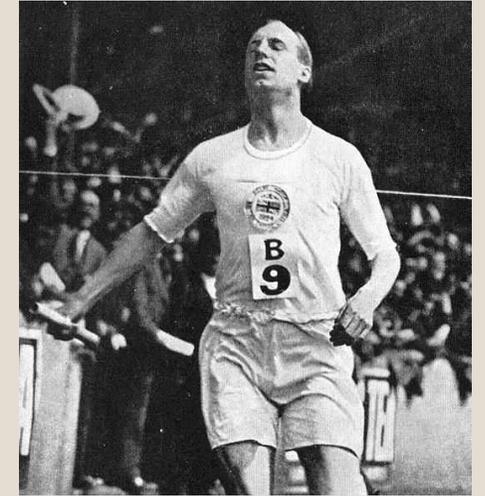
Use What God has Given to You



Time



Treasure



Talent

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- Ask God how He would have use one of these gifts
 - Step into an opportunity for 3mos, 6mos, or 12mos
 - Evaluate fruitfulness