

While the Bridegroom Tarried

“And at midnight there was a cry made, behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye to meet him” (Matthew 25: 6).

A cry was made in the middle of the night to awaken the virgins from sleep because they have all fallen asleep. They slumbered and slept because the bridegroom tarried. The bridegroom did not come at the expected time. So, they became drained, exhausted and tired of waiting. In the process their enthusiasm to want to see the bridegroom began to dwindle and their vision began to get blurred, and they could not keep alert and focused any more. They began to doze, and they eventually slept off. They lost guard completely and slept off.

It is possible that many of us are in the same situation. It may appear as if we have come to our wits end. We may be tired and exhausted. Things are just not adding up. It may look like weeping is enduring for the night, and it looks like the night is never going to come to an end. It may appear as if the answers to our prayers may never come. But our God is faithful. No matter how long the night may be, the day will break, and joy will come in the morning.



The easiest way to get distracted and to lose track is when things are not working out the way we want them to. When there is a delay we get easily agitated and tense, we get anxious, drained, and exhausted and if care is not taken, we give up. One of the things that can quickly bring weariness to the soul is when our expectations are not met “Hope deferred maketh the heart sick and brings weariness to the soul: but when the desire cometh, it is as a tree of life” **Proverbs 13:12.**

While the virgins became helpless in the face of physical exhaustion and tiredness, while they became wearied in their souls, they succumbed to slumbering and sleeping on account of all that was happening around them, God was there with them, he showed up at midnight in the middle of their confusion and made a way for them. God did not abandon them simply because they slumbered and slept. A cry was made at midnight to wake them up from their sleep. God has promised that he will never leave us nor forsake us though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil for he is with us; his rod and his staff will comfort us **(Psalm 23:4).**

Lazarus Had Lain in The Grave Four Days Already

Mary and Martha waited endlessly for Jesus to come and heal their sick brother Lazarus. Three days to them was like eternity. To them it was like Jesus would never show up, it was like Jesus never cared. It was like Jesus abandoned them in the most difficult time of their life. What Mary and Martha did not know was that some element of divine timing was involved. Jesus showed up at the right time but to them his coming was late. When Jesus was told that Lazarus his friend was sick, he abode two more days in the same place where he was. He did not hurry

to leave even after he had been told that his friend Lazarus was seriously ill (John 11:6). By the time Jesus arrived he found out that Lazarus had been buried four days already (John 11:17). Mary and Martha welcomed Jesus by saying to him if you had gotten here earlier our brother Lazarus would not have died (John 11:21). But Jesus said to them I AM the resurrection and the life. I AM never late. Yesterday I AM, today I AM, and tomorrow I AM. Jesus is never late. Things may appear delayed in our lives. It is all for a purpose. The vision may tarry, it may even be delayed but wait for it, it shall surely come it will come in its time. Time is in God's hand, and He makes all things beautiful in His time (Eccl 3:11).

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. There is a river, the streams shall make glad the city of God. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early” (Psalm 46:1-5). No matter the situation we might be going through, God is never late, he will come through for us. There is a river flowing from the presence of the Lord, the streams of it shall make glad the city of God and make a way for God's people. God shall send help to his people, and that right early. His help will come to us right early.

A Certain Man Which Had Infirmity Thirty-Eight Years

A certain man had waited at the pool of Bethesda for deliverance for thirty and eight years. An angel would normally come down at a certain season to trouble the water and whosoever that first stepped into the water after the troubling of the water was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. For 38 years he had waited, he persevered and hoped against hope that someone will just help to roll him into the water each time the angel came to trouble the waters but alas he found no one.

He was sick and tired of waiting and had probably given up waiting to die beside the pool without getting his healing. It was just then that Jesus saw him lying down there by the side of the pool, and Jesus knew that he had been there a long time, and Jesus said unto him do you want to be made whole? (John 5:6). Jesus said to the man Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. Jesus knows all that that we may be going through. Jesus needed no one to tell him that the man had been waiting a long time. He knew. There is nothing we may be going through now that Jesus does not know about. Thirty and eight years may be long, but Jesus was never late he showed up at the appointed time, and he made all things beautiful. No matter how long your case may have been, no matter how devastating your circumstances may have been, our God shall step in and turn your situation right around. Therefore, you must hold on and never give up.

A certain woman which had an issue of blood twelve years

“A certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and nothing bettered, but rather grew worse” (Mark 5:25-26). The plight of this woman was pathetic. We were not told much about this

woman's relationship with God but to all intents and purposes this woman would appear to be a good woman, someone who had a good relationship with people all around her and served God faithfully in her own little way. The question is why it took God twelve years to answer the prayers of this woman. She not only suffered the discomfort of the continuous flow of blood from her body, she suffered shame and social alienation because of her condition. She was in this sordid condition for twelve long years. This is harrowing.

In the process of her travail she spent all that she had paying for medical bills, and I am sure her family and her care givers must have suffered untold hardship as well. Still we were told in verse 26 that instead of improving and getting better her condition grew worse. Sometimes when things get to a head like this, and we are at a loss as to what to do, that's when God shows up. It is usually darkest when it is one hour to dawn. The Lord came in at midnight into the dungeon and made a way for Paul and Silas in the midst of their utter misery with chains in their hands and legs. Jesus is able to turn your situation around. No matter how bad, no matter how long God is able to turn everything around for you. When everybody else may have given up on you God will not give up on you, when all hopes appear to be lost God will show up for you and he will turn your situation around.

When the woman with the issue of blood heard about Jesus passing through her neighborhood. She was weak and tired, but she summoned all the strength in her to join the crowd and said to herself if I can only touch the edge of his garment, I shall be made whole ([Mark 5:27-28](#)). The plague of 12 years ended, and the fountain of her blood dried up, and she was healed when she touched the clothes of Jesus Christ. You too must get up; you must look up to God for help in this midnight you may be in. Look beyond your difficulties, look beyond your despondency, pick up whatever strength that is left in you and call on him.

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Source:

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September 2019 Newsletter Edition