

Preparation

This is the theme of this first of three parables that Jesus taught on the Mount of Olives. Matt 24 and 25.

The gist of the story was that there were five wise virgins and there were five foolish virgins. In considering the outcome of this story we must recognize that Jesus used it to speak to His followers on the need to be prepared for action.

From this parable I have coined the expression "Proper preparation is a prerequisite for participation."

Seeing that this principle is such a basic one and yet 50% of the called out one missed it, I feel it is prudent to consider the things that cause such a high level of failure in the body of Christ. For this I would like to draw on the list produced by another author Ferdinand Fournies in his book 'Why Employees fail to do what they are paid to do' He pointed out that it was what was or was not in their heads. I.E.

1. They don't know why.
2. They don't know how.
3. They don't know what
4. They think your (God's) way will not work.
5. They think their way is better.
6. They don't realise the importance of your action
7. They fail to see the positive Consequence of doing it.
8. They think they are doing it
9. They do not understand your reward system
10. They fail to take account of the negative impact of their non performance.

From this list of reasons I conclude that one of the primary roles of the prophet is to facilitate the proper preparation of the Church. It could be that the reason many churches stumble is the absence of the prophetic voice of God. This voice is need for the correction of courses that may have been set due to the use of incorrect data and also motives.

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