

# WHILE MEN SLEPT

## MATTHEW 13 & OTHERS

Text: Matthew 13:25

### **Matthew 13:25**

<sup>25</sup> But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

Introduction:

We have today a problem, its men who are sleeping, not physically, but spiritually. Good men, churches, and pastors who have slumbered and many are sleeping. It is seen clearly in the lukewarmness about the cause of Christ, the unconcern over sin, the weariness of in carrying out spiritual duties, a forsaking of the house of God. While men are sleeping the enemy is busy.

We are told today that we are no longer a Christian nation, but this line of thinking is the result of men sleeping.

The church of Jesus Christ is largely sleeping, and they are saying "Please don't wake me up! I want to sleep on!"

Notice

### Isaiah 52:1

<sup>1</sup> **Awake, awake; put on thy strength**, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean.

### Isaiah 51:17

<sup>17</sup> **Awake, awake, stand up, O Jerusalem, which hast drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of his fury; thou hast drunken the dregs of the cup of trembling, and wrung them out.**

### Joel 3:9

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, **wake up the mighty men**, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:

### Ephesians 5:14

<sup>14</sup> Wherefore he saith, **Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead**, and Christ shall give thee light.

### Romans 13:11

<sup>11</sup> And that, knowing the time, that now **it is high time to awake out of sleep**: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

Notice

# 1. SOWING (MATTHEW 13:24-25)

## Matthew 13:24-25

<sup>24</sup> Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: <sup>25</sup> But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

## 2. SLEEPING

The sowing is not the problem, even the sowing of the tares isn't the real issue; the real problem which is the real issue is those who are sleeping.

There are several illustrations of sleepers in God's Word.

See Matt 25:5

- Note it wasn't just the foolish that was sleeping, but the wise were asleep as well.

Other Examples

- Samson – disobedient (Judges 15:2-3; 16:16-20)
- Disciples – disrespect (Matt 26:39-41)
- Jonah – defiance (Jonah 1:4-5, 15)

### 3. SUMMATION - WHAT IS THE RESULTS OF SLEEPING?

- The enemy sows tares or weeds – Matt 13:25
- In Samson’s case he lost his strength, sight, standing, service?
- The disciples lost the privilege of not only seeing the Savior pray but an opportunity to pray with the master
- It is easy to fall victim to temptation.
- Jonah went through a storm and into the sea

### 4. SOLUTION - (ROM 13:11)

#### Romans 13:11-14

<sup>11</sup> And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. <sup>14</sup> But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

We must:

### A. Wake Up

When Paul talks about "knowing the time" here he is not talking about a chronological time. He is talking about the age in which we are living.

Paul tells us here that it is "high time to awake from sleep".

When Paul talks about awakening from sleep here, he is talking about spiritual sleep. Paul is calling us to awake from spiritual "unconsciousness, unresponsiveness, and inactivity concerning the things of God."

We as Christians can very easily be unconscious to the things of God. We just more or less ignore them. We're saved, but it doesn't sink in as to what we should be doing.

We as Christians are often unresponsive to the Word of God.

### B. Walk Right (vs 13)

NOT IN RIOTING - Rioting here can be partying of the worst kind! It's been translated elsewhere as "carousing".

NOT IN DRUNKENNESS – (Proverbs 20:1)

**Proverbs 20:1**

<sup>1</sup>Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

NOT IN CHAMBERING - Not in "going to bed", that is sexual promiscuity. Hebrews 13:4

**Hebrews 13:4**

<sup>4</sup>Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

NOT IN WANTONNESS - We might say sensuality. There is to be no public display of sexual immorality. We are never to show "shameless excess or absence of restraint."

NOT IN STRIFE - There is not to be petty bickering and fighting among us. We are to be known by our love, not our disagreements.

NOT IN ENVYING - We are not to be jealous of what someone else has. Jealousy is what often leads to the strife which we just mentioned!

Close:

The enemy today is active and good men and churches are sadly sleeping thinking all is well, all the while the tares are being sowed at a rapid pace. It's high time to awake.

You say this has challenged me. What's important is not have we been challenged, but rather have we been changed?