



Tough Love - Week 3

Message Discussion Questions

Introduction:

This week Chance concludes a new series called 'Tough Love'. How do you feel about tough love? Tough love isn't easy to receive and it's not easy to give. Do you accept it or push back against it because it's too hard? Tough love is best given or received within relationship...it's necessary for growth. Tough love is advice not wanted, but needed. Jesus often shared tough love via parables.

For Week 3 we will be looking at Tough Love and FOMO, the Fear of Missing Out. We have all missed out on things because we were focused on the wrong things. It's really tough love for you to be told you missed out on something important. How can you be sure to be prepared so that you don't miss out when Jesus comes back?

Questions:

1. Do you have FOMO (Fear of Missing Out)? Have you ever missed out on something important because you were distracted or focused on something else less important?
2. Why is it important that five of the bridesmaids were prepared and five of them were not? What do you know about the Jewish culture, traditions and their responsibilities as a bridesmaid? Matthew 25:1-5
3. What does it mean that all the bridesmaids looked to be ready but only five of them actually were? Is it possible to look ready but not be ready? Didn't they know their responsibility? Didn't they have time to be prepared? Matthew 25:6-8

4. How does this parable demonstrate the 'tough love' that we are all responsible for our own choices/decisions? What does this show you about being prepared and being ready yourself? Who will you be accountable for? Matthew 25:9
5. Should the five bridesmaids that were unprepared have expected the bridegroom to open the door for them when they returned with the oil they needed? What would have been required for them to be prepared? Matthew 25:10-11
6. Why did the bridegroom say 'Believe me, I don't know you'? Does this seem harsh to you? How does this parable demonstrate 'tough love'? Is this a stern warning to all of us? Matthew 25:12-13
7. As you look at your life in the light of this parable: What is it that is taking most of your attention and focus? Are you just pretending you're prepared for Jesus to return? What do your answers tell you about whether or not you are prepared for His return?

Key Takeaway: *No one has to miss out when it comes to salvation. The hope and excitement we get to share about the future is all because of Jesus Christ. His love and mercy that goes before each of us. And that is what Easter is all about.*

Summary:

- Missing something important because you are focused on the wrong things; FOMO
- Five were prepared, five were not prepared; they had no control over the timing... Matthew 25:1-5
- The bridegroom comes unexpectedly, they all looked like they were ready but only five of the ten were ready... Matthew 25:6-8
- We are only responsible for ourselves, we are all responsible for the choices/decisions we make... Matthew 25:9
- Because they weren't prepared (ready) the five missed out when the bridegroom came and they were gone... Matthew 25:10-11
- No one wants to hear 'I don't know you', because of Jesus' resurrection no one has to hear that... Matthew 25:12-13
- What is it that is taking most of your attention and focus? Are you just pretending you're prepared?