

**‘Therefore, keep watch,
because you do not know
the day or the hour...
His master replied,
“Well done, good and faithful
servant... I tell you the truth,
whatever you did for even
the least of these brothers
and sisters of mine,
you did for me.”**

—Matthew 25:13,21a,40

Be prepared.

It’s one of the most recognisable mottos in the world, shaping Scouts across generations. At its heart, the motto is about readiness—about forming character so that young people can live out their duty to God, others, and self.

I was never a Scout myself, but as I read Matthew 25 I can’t help noticing the resonance. In this chapter, Jesus is preparing His disciples for what lies ahead, and He does it through three parables that all circle around the same theme: readiness, responsibility, and the impact of our actions.

The first parable—the five foolish and five wise bridesmaids—reminds us to be prepared. This isn’t only a story about “end times”; it spoke directly to the disciples’ lives then, just as it speaks to ours now. Opportunity or crisis may be just around the corner. A moment to do good or to resist harm may appear without warning. Are we ready? Have we done the physical, mental, and spiritual work that allows us to respond when Jesus calls?

The second parable—the master entrusting his wealth to his servants—pushes us to use what God has given us. We are invited to invest our gifts, our blessings, our faith, in ways that build God’s kingdom here on earth. Are we listening



for God’s prompting? Are we growing the talents He has placed within us?

And then Jesus ends the chapter with the story of the sheep and the goats, assuring His disciples that their actions matter. Even the smallest act of compassion is seen, honoured, and woven into God’s transforming work in the world. It’s a powerful encouragement to keep going.

So when you and I look at the world—with all its complexity, conflict, and noise—these three parables help us discern our duty to God, others, and self. Global events can feel overwhelming (they certainly do for me at times). But beneath every headline are individuals trying to make the best of their circumstances. The world is made



Nisha receiving treatment to help her recover from the effects of leprosy.

up of billions of stories, weaving in and out of one another, forming families, friendships, and communities of every shape and size.

You are one of those stories. And

it doesn't take much imagination to see how your life touches the people in your home, your street, your neighbourhood, your family, and your friendship circles.

What's harder to see is how your story intersects with the story of someone like Nisha, from India.

Her story is marked by fear, her father's anxiety, grief over the loss of her beloved step-mum, and rejection. It began with strange patches on her face and arms. Then, "my face started to swell," Nisha says. "Even my closest friends wouldn't come near me. I became unwanted and invisible."

Nisha is only nine. She should be at school, learning, laughing, playing with friends. Instead, she is confined to her home—the only place she feels safe, and the only place she has her father's comfort. Yet even home feels like a prison, a daily reminder of the disease she carries... and the disease that took her step-mum. Now, Nisha can only dream of the life she might have had.

So where does your story meet hers?

You may have known pain, despair, grief—perhaps even all of them, though rarely all at once or at such a young age. Those experiences help us empathise, but they are not the point of connection.

Your story meets Nisha's at the moment you said yes to Jesus.

Psalm 24:1 tells us that the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it—the world and all who live in it. When you welcomed Jesus into your life, you opened your heart to all of God's creation. Are you and I Scoutlike? Christlike? Are we ready to accept the call from Matthew 25 to be prepared, to grow God's blessings in our lives, and to use them to bless and transform others?

Your prayers for children like Nisha give us hope for a day when no child will endure suffering like hers. No matter what fills our screens—from

wars to political scandals to wealthy nations cutting global aid—Jesus calls us to pray and to act so that even the smallest and most vulnerable can live in freedom.

Thank you for your faithful commitment to ending the injustice of leprosy. Your story matters more than you know.

Yours in Prayer,



Glen Coleman
Community Engagement Coordinator
Leprosy Mission Australia



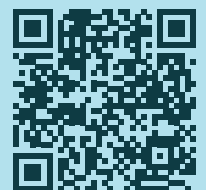
Will you pray with us?

In these challenging times, your prayers are desperately needed to stop another child from the suffering Nisha has had to endure. Pray that leprosy will be stopped in its tracks. Pray that nations will see the need to share their wealth for the benefit of all. Pray others will be prepared to use their gifts to bless even the smallest and most vulnerable.

Share your prayers for children like Nisha and for all God is doing by emailing engage@leprosymission.org.au or by using the enclosed form.

Would you like to do more?

You can step in to protect more children like Nisha. You can provide skin screening for early diagnosis and treatment, contact tracing to stop the spread fast, and crucial information so families and communities are armed with facts about care and cure.



Simply follow the link or scan the QR code for more <https://www.leprosymission.org.au/CrisisCare/PPD12>