

## **Lectionary Bible Study**

### **For Sunday, November 12, 2023 (Pentecost 24)**

#### **Amos 5:18-24**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. The ancient Jews long for the day of the Lord's coming (v. 18). What do you think they expected to happen? Why is Amos warning them not to be so eager?
2. Why does God despise their religious practices?
3. Complete this sentence: When the Lord comes again, I will probably be found \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What do you think God would say about your worship?

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. What is the sequence of events as described in this passage?
2. Does the imagery of a "thief in the night" evoke a sense of anxiety or calm in you? Why?
3. In what way would the words of this passage be an "encouragement" (v. 18)?
4. What can Christians do to be better prepared for the Lord's return?
5. Do you think Christ will return in your lifetime? Why or why not?

#### **Matthew 25:1-13**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. In what ways were the 10 virgins alike? In what ways were they different?
2. Why did the bridegroom linger? How does that reflect the delay in the return of Christ?
3. What is represented by the oil? The lamp? The shutting of the door?
4. Why did the five virgins refuse to share their oil? Was that an appropriate response?
5. What is the main point of this parable?
6. What does Jesus expect his followers to be doing as they wait for his return?
7. What are you doing to prepare for his return?

##### **WRAP UP**

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?