

## The Parables of the Kingdom

### Matthew 25:1-13 Parable of the Ten Virgins

#### Do you consider yourself a prepared person?

A) Do you pre plan – do you prepare.

B) **Word preparation online – lots of articles**

1) Preparation for – **Empty nester**

2) Preparation for retirement

3) Preparation for your **child's first day of school**

4) Preparation for your Child's first day of college

5) Preparing for your **first date w/ someone.**

6) Preparing to meet your in-laws.

7) Prepared **for paint ball** – top ten things you want in your paintball gear bag.

C) Some of those things are pretty important things to prepare for / others not so important

#### One thing that is a non negotiable – thing you must prepare for. – **Preparing to meet Christ**

A) Preparing for His coming!

B) That is the theme of the parable that Jesus tells at the beginning of Chapter 25

C) The Setting: No Chapter breaks – this was part of the Olivet discourse – talking end times – **signs.....**

D) Speaking about our need to be ready – to be watching – to be prepared in regards to his return

#### Signs would be like Labor pains – Grow in intensity and frequency the closer we get to – **delivery.**

A) Ch. 24 is about those signs –

B) Jesus follows the teaching by giving us this parable about being prepared.

**RD V.1-13**

**Joe Focht Parable has been tortured over the yrs — torture a text long enough you can get it to say anything**

What we are interested in is the Central theme – Central theme is being prepared Read v.13 again

**Matthew 25:13**

**"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.**

**He said this two other times**

**Matthew 24:42, 44**

**42 "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."**

**44 "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."**

**3 times Jesus says something 3 times – listen up**

**Parable – Cast along side – Spiritual alongside the Physical – **Familiar picture** – **Wedding celebration****

**Need to understand how they did weddings**

**Marriage By arrangements**

**A) When Young arranged – I am glad I got to Choose – now as a parent – I'm liking this arrangement idea.**

**B) Now when the Kids came of age where they could actually be married – **Betrothed for a year.****

**1) Legally binding – the same as being married – not consummated or living together**

**C) One thing that needed to take place first was home prepared{ **Often adjacent to parents** {**

**C) So the Young man - bridegroom would begin to build a dwelling place for he and his bride**

**1) the wedding couldn't take place until it was finished!**

**D) Now **Who determined when it was finished?** - His Father{ That was good – roof & walls /**

**1) **Up to the kid - A Bed and a tent covering****

**Picture is clear Jesus said**

**John 14:1-4**

**"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."**

**So Jesus said He was going to prepare a place and He would come again for us.**

**A)but He also says - no man knows the day or the hour of that coming except - Father!**

**B)But Jesus said - we should know the times and seasons - understand when things are getting closer!**

**So the bridegroom would be working on the house**

**A) And the bride would get reports from friends – relatives Foundation is laid**

**B)Walls are up / roof is on / windows in / front door is up/ Flowers - it could be any day now! – finished**

**C)That is when the bridegroom would come with his groomsmen**

**D)Often in the middle of the night or early in the morning –**

**1) Groomsmen trumpet – Behold the Bride groom comes**

**Then He would - Take his bride to the house to consummate their marriage**

**A)7 day wedding feast would follow during the feast the bride would not be seen for 7 days – only the bride groom**

**B)For 7 days their family and friends - party - celebrate - at the end of the 7days - bride would be presented!**

**Incredible picture of what the bible teaches of Christ and His church**

- 1.) betrothed to Him
- 2.) Gone to prepare a place
- 3.) No one know day or hour except Father
- 4.) Bride gets reports - we know times and seasons
- 5.) Bridegroom comes - 7 year feast - presented at 2nd coming

**That is the picture that is being presented here – there are 10 bridesmaids always 10**

**A)Ten is the Jewish number of completion, as illustrated by the fact that there were ten Commandments**

B)and that ten Jewish males in a community warranted a synagogue.–

C)**They were all virgins** – no married bridesmaids – all dressed in white

D) All waiting for the Bride groom to come – But He delayed

### **Delays often test us.**

A)It test our integrity – we will stay true!

B)what happens at School in the Classroom – teacher delays – Class is out of order

C)**Or at work when the boss delays** – the workers slack – they know he is going to be late they run late { revealing slackers

C)My Kids – **Saturday a job** – finish before we get home – **When are you coming home ?**  
Wait until the last minute –

### **Delays are a test of our seriousness**

A) How serious are we about our calling – about our work / our walk

B)A test of our Patience. { I hate to wait

Bb)Christ delay is meant to be an act of mercy – more saved 2 Peter 3:9 None Perish

.....

1)1982 come / Young / Old - – Glad he waited!

C)**You can't afford to procrastinate** – this is one thing you don't want to be caught off guard in

### **So the bridegroom delayed - of the 10 virgins only 5 were prepared**

A)One of the most striking facts about this story is how similar the ten virgins appear on the surface:

B)**Alike in many ways!**

- All had been invited the banquet and all had responded. positively.
- All ten had gone out to wait for the bridegroom.
- All of them had their lamps with them.
- **All the virgins wanted to see the bridegroom.**
- All were in the right place at the right time for the right reason.

- **All of them wanted to go to the wedding banquet.**
- All fell asleep while waiting for the bridegroom.
- **All were awakened by the midnight cry.**
- All ten virgins got up to prepare their lamps.
- **All appeared to be equally prepared for the bridegroom's coming.**

**C) That last statement is crucial.**

Let's suppose that we were to ask the ten virgins to stand in front of us in no particular order.

**D) Could you pick out the five foolish virgins? Answer: no, and neither could I.**

1) "Number 2 looks a little bored. Maybe she's a foolish virgin."

2) Or, "Look at Number 6. She's chewing gum. How wise can she be?"

3) Or, "I know Number 10. There's no way she's a wise virgin."

**E) I submit to you that there was no way to tell in advance who was wise and who was foolish.**

1) **To the untrained eye, they would all look the same.**

**That is the point of the Story!**

A) **Midnight the Cry goes out – Behold the Bridegroom comes go out to meet him –**

B) **The Five wise virgins – Go in to meet with Him**

1) **Immediate – delay was over /**

**Intimate – Went in with Him**

**Joyous – To a wedding**

**But the 5 foolish Virgins were unprepared**

A) **In a flash, they thought of the times that they intended to prepare for the bridegroom's coming.**

B) **But they delayed. 'It's not convenient now;**

2) **Too busy – I have other things going on.**

C) **I am sure I still have time** - But they didn't when that moment arrived, nothing was more important to them than meeting him.

D) **Now they are desperate** – But they don't have oil for their lamps!

**So the five foolish virgins desperately cry out to the prudent virgins, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out."**

A)The verb tense shows **the urgency in their plea**{ suddenly this is the **only thing that mattered to them!**

nothing surpassed the importance of being admitted to the wedding feast. { Not make up or ribbons

**None of that mattered! Problem it was too late!**

A)At this point we must discuss **WHAT DOES THE OIL REPRESENT ?**

**In the Old Testament, oil often stands for the presence of the Holy Spirit.**

A)The oil represents the indwelling of the Spirit that accompanies true conversion. { **EXPLAIN**

B)The five wise virgins represent those whose hearts have been truly changed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C)The five foolish virgins represent religious people who come under the conviction of the Spirit but are never truly converted.{ **Never give their hearts**

**THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF BORROWED FAITH**

A)Can't borrow oil – you can give someone light – but you can't give them oil { **Watching workouts**

Can't borrow faith -

B)My kids will end up in heaven based on their own choices – not my faith –not my wife's faith

“My mother was a godly woman,” you might say. “And that's why she's in heaven,” the Lord will reply, “but what about you?”

**I went to Church ..... Donut Shop policeman**

“I went to CC Bible College – Great – **Do you know Jesus**

**The 5 foolish virgins finally show up at the door it is Shut –they are left out**

A)When they plea – **this is what they hear - sorry I don't know You -**

B)That is what matters **do you know Jesus – does Jesus know you**

1)Not that you go to Church –

2)How many of you here went to Church before you were saved ? -

**C)The Bible is described in the Psalms as a Lamp unto our feet**

**D)How many of you had a Bible before you were saved?- So you had a lamp – but you didn't have oil**

**E)Note this they were in the Bridle party – they were invited to the wedding - They were left out**

**Rapture happened today – I am afraid there are some here who would be left behind. -**

**A)No oil in your lamp –**

**B)Jesus would say you are a great person – problem is you haven't given your heart to me**

**C)The 10 foolish bridesmaids looked like the other bridesmaids – they just lacked oil - There are those here who might look like Christians – sing the songs carry a Bible – but have never really given their hearts to JESUS**

**SO READINESS IS A MARK OF THOSE WHO ARE SAVED!**

**Some people will miss heaven and it will be no one's fault but their own. { Not mom/ Dad / spouse**

**A)No one to blame but yourself!**

**B)If you miss heaven and wonder why, look in the mirror and you will have your answer.**

**BARCLAY** How vexing to almost catch a plane, but to be left at the terminal. { **Israel NY – Close many times frantic**

**But, oh, how above-all-things terrible to be almost a Christian and yet end up in the lake of fire for eternity!"**

**C)Don't let that be you today! - Don't procrastinate Today is the day of Salvation**

**Close with some questions**

**1.) Are you really saved ?**

**2 Corinthians 13:5**

**"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know**

yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?"

**Maybe you would say- Yes I know I am saved – I have the Spirit – 2<sup>nd</sup> Question**

**2.) Does the Spirit have you?**

Galatians 5:16

**“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”**

**3.) Do you believe that Jesus could come back at any moment? Living in the last days**

**A) Don't move from that stance – doesn't matter what Hank H says – emergent Church says – all that matters is what Jesus says**

**B) Early Church was powerful because they believed that Jesus could come back at any moment –**

**C) Are we living that way?**

**C) Problem with the five foolish virgins was there was no sense of urgency**

**1) Many have lost their sense of urgency.**

**1) But the cry will soon go forth: behold the bridegroom comes!**

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

**“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**

**Jesus said the days leading up to His coming would be like the days of Noah – Sodom and Gomorrah -**

**A) Given over to sexual immorality – today the Porn industry brings in 13 billion a year – more than Hollywood baseball basketball – football combined -**

**Homosexuality – Legalize Gay Marriage**

**43 Million abortions in this country – sexual promiscuity**

**Days where there would be wars and rumors of wars** Here are some headlines from just one recent week:

**Arms Race: 13 Mideast states have advanced nuclear programs.**

**Iran's President threatens – USA and Israel**

**Iran test-fired nine long- and medium-range missiles during war games... Gen. Hossein Salami, the air force commander of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards, said the exercise would**



"demonstrate our resolve and might against enemies" ...

The report showed footage of at least three missiles firing simultaneously, and said the barrage included a new version of the Shahab-3 missile, which officials have said has a range of 1,250 miles and is armed with a 1-ton conventional warhead.

That would put Israel, Turkey, the Arabian peninsula, Afghanistan and Pakistan within striking distance.

**China can now field an army of 200 million troops – significance? Revelation 9:16 describes an army coming from the east – numbering 200 million.**

**Rising oil Prices / the collapse of the value of the dollar – floods in the Midwest – fires in So cal. Contractions are getting more frequent**

**Why isn't the US in the end times picture?**

**Super power – Rapture / Nuclear hit**

**Joel Rosenberg- Dead heat - Seattle – Technological industry – Apple – Microsoft**

**LA / NY – Entertainment – Wall street -Economic**

**DC – political**

**Crippled the USA –**

**Are You ready – Are you Prepared – If not**

**Romans 13:11-14**

**“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”**

**The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.” NKJV**

**13 Let us live in a right way, like people who belong to the day. We should not have wild parties or get drunk. There should be no sexual sins of any kind, no fighting or jealousy. 14 But clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and forget about satisfying your sinful self. NCV**