

**Matthew 25:1-13**  
**The Parable of the Ten Virgins**  
**(The King and His Kingdom)**

Read V.1-13

When I was growing up – Fun neighborhood – lots of boys – Fun times – ball –

A) One of the things we loved to play was hide and Seek. Especially at night

B) We were into – dress in all black or Camouflage

1) Remember the person or team that was the seekers

Count to 50 and then they would say:

C) Ready or Not here – I come!

Jesus is a seeker: He described his ministry in this way in Luke 19- He came to seek and save... lost

A) That is his heart – He doesn't want anyone to perish – He delays His coming – SAVED

B) But one day: Jesus will say: Ready or not here I COME!!!

C) Will you be ready? – Will you be prepared to meet Jesus!

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

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

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 a series of illustrations about READINESS

1) about being prepared.

C) Parable of the Fig tree/ Days of Noah / two servants

1) Today – Parable of the ten virgins

D) THE Central theme is being READY – 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 – When Young.....

A) They were actually ENGAGED -

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) If something happened to split them up during that year of betrothal – LEGAL DIVORCE

1) If the young man died during that year of Betrothal – the young woman: Widow... Virgin

The year of Betrothal was about Preparation

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

B) 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!

C) 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

D) So all during that year – the Bridegroom is working on the home – share with his bride.

### Interesting Picture: 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 – **THE SIGNS**

1)understand when things are getting closer!

C)Another interesting parallel

See as bridegroom would be working on the house

A)**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

1)The Bride and her bridesmaids had to be ready

C)The bridegroom would come with his groomsmen

D)Became a tradition to come in the middle of the night or early in the morning –

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

E)People would here the sound – commotion – **THE WEDDING IS GOING TO BE TODAY!**

The Groom would gather his bride and her bridesmaids – head to the house – Festivities began

A)The Ceremony would be held – then the reception would take place for 7 DAYS

B)The first night the bride and groom would go into the House prepared – to consummate their wedding

1)The Best man would wait outside the door –

C)Once the marriage was consummated –  
1)**the Bridegroom would hand the best man – bloody bed sheet - Proof ..Consummated... she was a virgin**

D)He would hold it up – everyone would celebrate.

1)7 DAY FEAST

During the seven day wedding celebration – the Bride would remain hidden in the House

A)The groom would come in and out – bring food to his bride

B)On day 7 – The Groom would present his bride to the Guests – final day of celebration would begin

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)10 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 Bridegroom 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

D) My Kids – **Saturday a job** – finish before we get home –

1) **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

1) I hate lines – I hate traffic –

C) When It comes to Jesus coming for his Church – many of us can grow IMPATIENT

1) COME QUICKLY LORD

D) But it is important that we note that **Jesus**

### **DELAY IS AN ACT OF MERCY!**

1) 2 Peter 3:9 None Perish .....

### When I was a younger Christian:

A) Dad before graduate HS – 1982 – How many of you were not saved in 1981 – **glad waited?**

B) Then 1988 – 88 reasons – Didn't come in 1988

1) How many of you not saved in 1988?

### Y2k- 2000 – How many of you were not saved in 2000?

A) The Lord has delayed His coming – and many of us have benefited from that.

B) Every year that He delays – More people have the opportunity to be saved!

### C) It is Foolish to try and SET DATES AND TIMES

1) negative affect – Believers – backslide –

D) Unbelievers get skeptical – You Christians always talking about the end of the world - coming of Jesus

1) THE LITTLE BOY THAT CRIED WOLF affect

### True from our vantage point – Jesus Delays His coming- but we can't LOSE HEART

A) And you definitely don't want to be unprepared

B) That is the point of this Parable:

1) Ten bridesmaids – 5 were prepared and five who were not.

C) Lets see what we can learn from this parable.

### Similarities of the Bridesmaids

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.

C) Sleeping here is not seen as a negative thing – fact of life – all ten fell asleep

### · 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.

1) 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?" I know #10 – No way....

### On the surface there was nothing to distinguish the wise from the foolish

A) The Ready from the unprepared

### B) That is the point of the Story!

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

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

### But the 5 foolish Virgins were unprepared

A)What they were lacking was oil for their lamps

B)What does the oil represent ?

C)In the Old Testament oil often represented the presence of the Holy Spirit.

1)Priests were anointed with Oil – Anointing of the Holy Spirit

D)**This parable the Oil** – represents the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. -

1)When you give your life to Christ – God’s spirit indwells your heart!

### Spiritual mark of a believer! – The indwelling of the Holy Spirit

A)We are told in Psalms God’s word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

B)How many of you had a Bible before saved?

C)Problem is – We had a Bible (the lamp) – but we didn’t have the oil – the spirit

1)Didn’t understand the word.

D)You came to Christ – Spirit filled your heart Things began to make sense.

### The 5 wise virgins in the parable represent those who have given their hearts to Christ

A)The Five foolish are those who haven’t

B)Notice what happens when the bridegroom comes. The Five foolish – beg the five wise

1)Give us some of your oil

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

1)**Nothing surpassed the importance of being admitted to the wedding feast.**

2){ **Not make up or ribbons**

D)The Five wise say: We can’t ..... enough

### THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF BORROWED FAITH

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

**B)Can’t borrow faith** – Each person will stand before God answer what do with MY SON?

**This is the sobering thing about this parable: The virgins all looked the same.**

A)All at the same place – all had lamps – but only five had the oil

B)Churches across this nation this Weekend are filled with this same SCENARIO

C)They are filled with people: All have Bibles

1)Sing the same songs – they know the LINGO

### But the Problem is there are people there who don’t have the Oil –

A)They haven’t really giving their lives to Christ

B)See it doesn’t matter – Parents are saved

1)Wife or Husband is saved

C)What matters is are You saved? – Do you know Christ.

D)Notice when the 5 foolish bridesmaids finally show up to the feast – they want in

1)The Bridegroom says – Sorry – I don’t know you

### E)See it is all about RELATIONSHIP!

1)If this is just a religious experience to you – you are missing the point ENTIRELY

**Jesus left heaven came to this earth – Died on the cross for your sins – so you could KNOW HIM**

**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)YOU KNOW ABOUT ME – BUT YOU DON’T KNOW ME!

### 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.”**

As a believe are you allowing your life to be led by the Spirit of God – Decisions/ priorities/ pursuits

Romans 8:5-6

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to be carnally (**Fleshly**) minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

**You might be saved – but missing out on the life that Jesus has for you.**

A)Problem: Fleshly minded – focused only on the things of this life – the flesh

B)Not experiencing life in the Spirit

C)Not focused on the Spirit

#2 Does the Spirit have you

**3.)Are you READY? 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 others say– 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?

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

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

A)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.**

**Consider one another for this purpose: Stir up love and good works**

**Your friends: Do they Stir you up in your walk with Jesus – Live for Jesus – serve Jesus**

**Stir you up or drag you down.**

**Someone has to step up and say – Enough**

**Sometimes {Need new friends**