

LINE BY LINE COLLECTIVE

Session 5: The Shut Door

Spiritual Preparedness in a Distracted World

By Ellen Fox

“And the door was shut...” – Matthew 25:10

INTRODUCTION

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, Jesus offers a sobering image: five were ready, five were not. All had lamps. All were waiting. But only five had oil—and when the moment came, the others missed it.

They believed in the wedding...
But didn't prepare for the wait.

CORE SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:10 (ESV): “And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.”

Luke 13:24–27 (ESV): “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many... will seek to enter and will not be able... ‘I do not know where you come from.’”

2 Corinthians 13:5 (ESV): “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.”

STUDY OUTLINE

1. *Faith that Prepares, Not Just Believes*

The virgins in the parable were not skeptics; they were waiting for Jesus.
But only some took preparation seriously.

- ▶ Faith is more than acknowledgment—it's alignment.
- ▶ Reflection: Am I living prepared, or just assuming I'll have time later?

2. *Oil in the Lamp – What Are You Carrying?*

In Scripture, oil represents the presence of the Holy Spirit.
Prepared hearts carry the “oil” of faith, obedience, repentance, and nearness to God.

- ▶ Spiritual readiness can't be borrowed. It must be cultivated.
- ▶ Reflection: Is my lamp filled with His presence, or just routine?

3. *A Closed Door Cannot Be Forced Open*

The parable reminds us: the door was shut.
The door of opportunity, grace, or even relationship may not stay open forever.

- ▶ Delayed obedience is disobedience.
- ▶ Reflection: What part of my life is God calling me to surrender before the door closes?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What doors in your life have you left unopened to God?
- Are you spiritually awake—or living on autopilot?
- Do you know about Jesus, or do you truly know Him?

LINE BY LINE COLLECTIVE

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, don't let me live drowsy.

Wake me up.

Fill me with oil.

Help me to be found faithful when You return.

Amen.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE:

Scripture on how God instructs and gives understanding:

Hebrews 4:12

Psalms 119:18

John 14:26

1 John 2:27

Psalms 32:8

Isaiah 48:17

Proverbs 3:5-6

© 2025 Ellen Fox. All rights reserved.

Scripture: ESV® © Crossway.

Study Tools: Logos Bible Software by Faithlife.