Parable 10 virgins, Jesus warn us. You must recognize, treasure the faith, our life in Christ, as your most priceless, necessary gift. **Not everyone who says, Lord, Lord will enter heaven.** Heed the warning.

The 5 wise, prepared, heard the warning cry; repented. They woke, attended to God's Word. They're welcomed in, by grace. The 5 foolish -not as if they never heard the Word of God or didn't have a chance; rather they think they know better or don't care, they go through life on their own terms, define their own truth. But then, too late. Lack oil, that is they lack true faith.

That cry comes to you today: Wake up. Pay attention. For those with eyes to see, the world is burning all around us. It's obsessed with the wrong things; stop lusting after things of this world; jealousy over things that do not last. Prepare. Stay awake. On your guard.

God be praised. You've been wise, gathered by God around His Word, Sacrament, faith, that is the oil of the parable. Where you need to be, where you belong. But you don't get to stay here. You must return to the dishes and laundry, your messy house, cluttered life and pile of bills. You must face the Monday morning traffic, endure people spewing things about God from their own imagine and hear their uninformed politics. You have to deal with temper tantrums, sleepless nights, deal with your uncooperative, inattentive spouse, family fights, family issues; even loneliness and your own struggle of behavior and gossip and the like.

The devil prowls seeking to devour you; destroy you, your home. No Christian is immune. You are under attack, temptations always upon you.

On top of all that, you must also negotiate your interactions with the world. You must be deliberate about how much time you spend on social media or news. You can't trust what you see. Stay awake, be on guard.

You have to recognize the battle before you and the stakes for your souls and your children and grandchildren and all your friends, as it can lull you to sleep.

Technology and screens are as dangerous and deadly as alcohol. It's not just porn that destroys faith and families. The internet can be a beneficial good tool and it is dangerous. Do not think it benign. Be aware. For it teaches that you need to be constantly entertained, you can't be bored. It trains you to be passive, to let others think for you, even as it pretends you to be busy and informed. It strokes covetousness with false ideas of a perfect family and an organized pantry. It erodes real relationships. It pontificates against God and objective truth and virtue. It promotes all sorts of dubious, wicked claims that seem nice.

This has to be dealt with. I know that you can't be completely separated from it but neither do you need to be immersed in it, hours a day. And if its not already bad enough, you have to wake up to this Ai stuff. Ai can be helpful sure, but these things are not neutral, you can already see its effects. Don't let Ai destroy

your humanity, rob you of creativity, problem solving and actually thinking for yourself. Wake up to this.

So take a break from screen, devote time without any devices. Read a good book. Play a board game. Talk to one another. Do a craft. Go see someone. Play with your spouse and family. Engage in some real activity that actually builds relationships.

We need this place, what our Lord gives here more than anything else in your week. For what happens here needs to extend into the rest of the week. It needs to define your time, your lives, your conversations. Christian discipline, Bible reading, prayer need to be practiced every day by every one of us. We do not want to sleep through life, drugged by Satan and the world into false security and lies of just be yourself, live your truth, drugging you with love of yourself and material thing. Watch, be sober, guarded. The Lord is coming.

We must sanctify our homes and everything we touch with the Word of God and prayer. Gather as family at table for meals and family devotions. Every day. Don't quit. Keep on beginning anew. Hold one another accountable. Let the Bible drive your conversations.

Just as we don't **mourn as the world mourns**, neither do we live our life like the world lives and dare not hold to their truth.

We live in evil times. Stay vigilant. On your guard. But do not mistake our Lord's warning as merely a threat. It comes in overwhelming mercy. Jesus wakes them up; for He made them His by His very life upon a cross. He gave up His life, He wants them, wants you with Him; not just Sundays but forever. You are worth His very life, has promise to Shepherd and guide you. He comes for you, to bring you home., He fills your lamp with faith He gives. Don't trust in what you've done. Our Lord does not want us to be paranoid or worried about the end. He wants you to **be ready**. How are you ready? Trust the Word. Renewed daily in your baptism. Fill your lamps up with Him, His forgiveness and wait.

While you wait, as you laugh and celebrate, as you fight and endure, as you grow weary, when your flesh proves its weakness, then He wakes you with a call to repentance. He fills you again. He prepares you for His coming then -by gathering you together for His coming now. Oil for Your lamps! Here's oil that will last; here is oil for you: I baptized you in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Here's more oil, In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus, I forgive your sins. More Oil in the Word, liturgy. More Oil, Take, eat the body of Christ; take drink the blood of Christ. No short supply of His mercy and grace. It never runs out. No sin too great. He does all things needed for you, His bride, to be prepared. Stay Awake. On your guard. Satan will not win. You are His. He fills you with oil. You are prepared. Let the trumpets blow. Let the day of the Lord dawn. And pray come Lord Jesus, come quickly.