

Katarinas reflection written for Faith ND on August 26, 2016

Matthew 25:1-13

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*Whenever I read this passage, I worry and say to myself, "Well, what if that's me? What if I'm one of the five who fails to bring extra oil for my lamp?"*

*This parable stresses me out, but also makes me reconsider how I am living my life. Am I living in a way that would make me unprepared to meet the Lord? I need to focus on how I'm living today and not wait for a later day to make more time for God. It can't wait because I will "know neither the day nor the hour" when the bridegroom will come.*

*Notice how the bridesmaids who were not ready for the bridegroom are described. They are not malicious, deceitful, unbelieving, or wicked people. They were simply foolish. They wanted the right thing, but that didn't matter because they were unprepared.*

*The foolish bridesmaids knew the bridegroom was coming, but didn't know when, and it sounds silly that they were not prepared to wait for him. But their foolishness rings true: we know that death is inevitable, but do not know when it will come. Are we like the wise bridesmaids who were prepared, or the foolish ones who forgot their oil?*

*What are our relationships like with friends and family? Do we strive to treat them with the love and patience that God would have? Are we spending enough quality time with God and others? Is prayer time pushed aside until bedtime when we are overwhelmed with school, work, or other activities?*

*Instead of despairing with the thought that we have no time, we simply need to create time intentionally and include God throughout our day with more constant communication. This passage is a great wake up call to be more disciplined and wise in our everyday life. Like the bridesmaids who "took flasks of oil with their lamps," we need to prepare.*