

The Parable of the Wise & Foolish Virgins (Matt. 25:1-13)

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¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³ Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

⁶ And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ ⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ ¹² But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”

The Point of the Parable

- Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings.
 - Jesus preached in parables to separate those who earnestly desire truth from those who do not (**Matt. 13:12-15**).
- This parable pictures:
 - Five foolish virgins who were unprepared for the bridegroom's return.
 - Five wise virgins who were prepared for the bridegroom's return.
- Jesus explains the point of this parable in **v.13** by saying, **"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."**
 - The second coming of Christ will occur.
 - Questions like, **"Where is the promise of His coming?"** were already being asked in the first century (**2 Pet. 3:4**).
 - We **know** the Lord will return (**Col. 3:4**); we just do not know **when** His return will take place (**2 Pet. 3:10; 1 Thess. 5:2-3**).

Some Will Be Unprepared (Foolish Virgins)

- The five foolish virgins in **Matt. 25** were unprepared for the bridegroom's return.
 - They may have been prepared initially, but the bridegroom was delayed (**v.5**).
 - Just because we were once prepared for the Lord's return does not mean we are always prepared.
 - i.e. OSAS is not true (**Heb. 6:4-6; 2 Pet. 2:20-22, 3:10,17; etc.**).
- Since the foolish virgins were unprepared, they were not allowed to enter the party (**v.10**).
 - They were told, "**Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you**" (**v.12**).
 - The foolish virgins did not have a relationship with the bridegroom.
 - We cannot be prepared for our Bridegroom's return unless we have a relationship with Him (**Gal. 3:26-27; Acts 8:14-25; Jude 20-21**).
 - If we are unprepared for our Bridegroom's return, He will say to us, "**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness**" (**Matt. 7:23**).

Some Will Be Prepared (Wise Virgins)

- The wise virgins in **Matt. 25** had a relationship with the bridegroom and, therefore, they were prepared for his return.
 - Being in a relationship with our Bridegroom requires we properly love Him by keeping His commandments (**John 14:15**).
 - No command of God is too difficult for us to obey (**1 John 5:3**).
 - We also must recognize and admit when we have damaged our relationship with the Bridegroom (**1 John 1:5-10**).
- The Lord knows our capabilities better than we do, and He says people can be prepared for the Bridegroom.
 - We can know right now if we are prepared; we can know if we currently “**have**” eternal life (**1 John 5:11-13; 2 Tim. 4:6-8**).
 - If you are a Christian and you do not know for a fact that you have eternal life, that is a problem and the problem does not rest with God, it rests within yourself (**Matt. 19:16-22; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:5**).

Are YOU Prepared?

- The Bridegroom wants us to be at the wedding party (**Rev. 22:17, 3:20; Matt. 11:20**)!
- The Bridegroom and the wedding party are coming.
 - Are you “**looking forward**” to that day (**2 Pet. 3:10-14**)?
 - Do you find “**comfort**” in the fact that the Lord will return (**1 Thess. 4:13-18**)?
 - Are you making preparations (**Acts 24:25; Matt. 24:37-39; 2 Cor. 6:2; 2 Pet. 3:11; Acts 8:23-24**)?
 - Remember – “**You know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming**” (**v.13**)!