

**STORY**

The Parable of the Ten Virgins – Matthew 25:1-13

**TEACHER PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have made me wise unto salvation through faith in Your holy Word. Bless my efforts that I may be the instrument through whom the Holy Spirit gives the children in my classroom Your precious saving Word so that they will always be ready for the unknown hour of Your return. In Your saving name, Amen.

**VOCABULARY**

*Parable* – An earthly story with a heavenly meaning. A teaching device Jesus used often.

*Lamps of oil* – This can symbolize for us of the whole work of God the Holy Spirit – that through God's Word He calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps us in the one true faith. (Luther's explanation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Article of the Apostle's Creed)

*Bridegroom* – Jesus Christ

*Wise Virgins* – Believers who faithfully persevered in God's Word.

*Foolish Virgins* – Those who started out as believers, but who did not continue in God's Word and, as a result, fell from faith and were rejected by the Lord.

**OUTER AIM**

Keep on watching and being ready for the unknown time of Christ's Day of Judgment.

**INNER AIM**

God's Word will keep us steadfast and ready for Christ's Day of Judgment.

**BACKGROUND**

In context, chapters 24 and 25 of the Gospel of Matthew deal with the coming of Christ's Day of Judgment. We recite in the Apostle's Creed..."...He will come to judge..." There are two events – the coming and the judging. Chapter 24 of Matthew deals mostly with the coming of Christ, while the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter deals mostly with the judging. This parable of the Ten Virgins deals with both, but with an emphasis on the Day of Judgment and the results of persevering in the faith or not. Being mindful that parables contain one main point, and we should not make doctrines out of the details, we also recognize that many of our Lutheran forefathers allegorized this parable according to the whole analogy of Scripture. For instance – the "lamp" is every Christian being a light in the world, the "oil" is faith, or the Word of God, etc. While we don't want to make too much of the details of a parable, we also recognize applicable Bible truths that prepare us by faith for the great Day of Judgment by our Savior.

**STUDENT PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for giving us faith to believe in the forgiveness of sins You have earned for us. Lord, keep our faith steadfast in Your Word so that we keep on watching for Your second coming, and so that on Judgment Day we will be welcomed by You into heaven for the eternal celebration You have prepared for all believers. Amen.

**PRESENTATION**

The Lord's second coming could happen at any time. He could very well come in our lifetime – our "time of grace." Also, our time of grace is in God's hands and so we may die before Judgment Day comes. Hebrews 9:27 says, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the Judgment." So, when our time of grace is over – as you close your eyes in death, the next thing you know you'll be opening your eyes on Judgment Day. Either way, we want God's assurance that Jesus not only is "the Author of our faith" but that He is

also “the Finisher of our faith.” (Heb. 12:12) In this parable, Jesus used the ten virgins to show the results of faithful perseverance to His Word verses unfaithful. Jesus is speaking to all believers and warning the foolish to “wise-up.” The contrast can be compared to

***Vs. 1 “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.”***

Some have equated the wise and foolish virgins as believers and unbelievers. But the “kingdom of heaven” is Christ’s ongoing ruling activity in our hearts and the hearts of all believers. Jesus is here preaching to His own – they are all believers at the beginning.

***Vs.2-5 “Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.”***

Using the whole analogy of Scripture, Martin Luther comments: “When the Kingdom is preached, these are the results: Some receive it with all their heart and are serious about , believe the Word, make the most strenuous efforts to practice good works, let their lamps shine before the world; for they are well provided with lamps and oil, that is, with faith and love: these are represented by the wise virgins. Then there are some that also accept the Gospel, but are sleepy, are not serious about it, think they can succeed with their works, are secure, and believe it can be paid for with works; those are indicated in the foolish virgins. In Scripture those are called foolish that do not obey the Word of God, but follow their own mind, will not be taught, accept no opinion but their own. But it will happen to them at last as it here happened to the foolish virgins. These two kinds of people are in this Kingdom, namely, where the Word of God is preached and there should be exercise of faith: some follow, some do not follow...” (Luther, 11, 1925.2407)

Also note, the foolish virgins did not *forget* to bring oil, they took no oil with them. Sleeping is something in which both foolish and wise are involved. One commentator says that this could imply that, although being warned to be watchful and ready, “there is danger at all times that a false sense of security lulls the spiritual senses to sleep.” (Kretzmann p. 139) When the time comes, all are taken by surprise.

***Vs.6-10 “And at midnight a cry was heard: `Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, `Give us some of you oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 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.’ 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.”***

The midnight cry came to the wise virgins only unexpectedly, but to the foolish virgins also unpreparedly. When asked, the wise virgins refused to share their oil with the foolish virgins. When Judgment Day arrives, there will be no “borrowing” from others what is needed for entrance into heaven.

Luther: “Remember, then, in this Gospel that the lamps without oil signify a mere external thing and a bodily exercise without faith in the heart; but the lamps with oil are the internal riches, also the external works with true faith.”

Conversion is to be coupled with faithful perseverance. All this is given by God through the Means of Grace – the Gospel as it is found in the Word and Sacraments.

***Vs.11-13 “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”***

The bridegroom in the parable took in only those virgins who were prepared to meet him. By the parable, Jesus taught that Christians should have faith and so be prepared to meet Him at all times. With faith we are prepared at all times. Those who lack faith, will have the doors of heaven closed to them. Matthew 7:21-23. Those that watch will receive the LORD and His grace. Those that are secure will find Him a merciless Judge.

### **APPLICATION**

Those who teach this lesson should be very careful not to moralize. Make sure that your children leave the Sunday School room knowing that God has prepared them through faith by the Gospel for His great Day of Judgment. Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith. That message encourages us to live lives committed steadfastly to Christ by faith.

Our parents, pastors, and teachers faithfully taught us the Word of God in all its truth and purity. “From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” 2 Timothy 3:15. The Holy Spirit will continue to use His Means of Grace to strengthen us to “fight the good fight” of our Christian lives, that we may finally “lay hold on eternal life.” 1 Timothy 6:12.

If we are to be watchful at all times, then we should talk about distractions and ways to prevent them. What hinders us from things spiritual?

How does Jesus recognize us? John 10:11ff. John 8:47, “He who is of God, hears God’s Word.

### **PASSAGES**

**These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.**

Matt. 24:42 - Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Matt. 24:44 - So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.

Matt 26:41 - Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation. The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak

Matt 7: 21 - Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

### **HYMN CHOICES**

Great God, What Do I See and Hear! - TLH #604

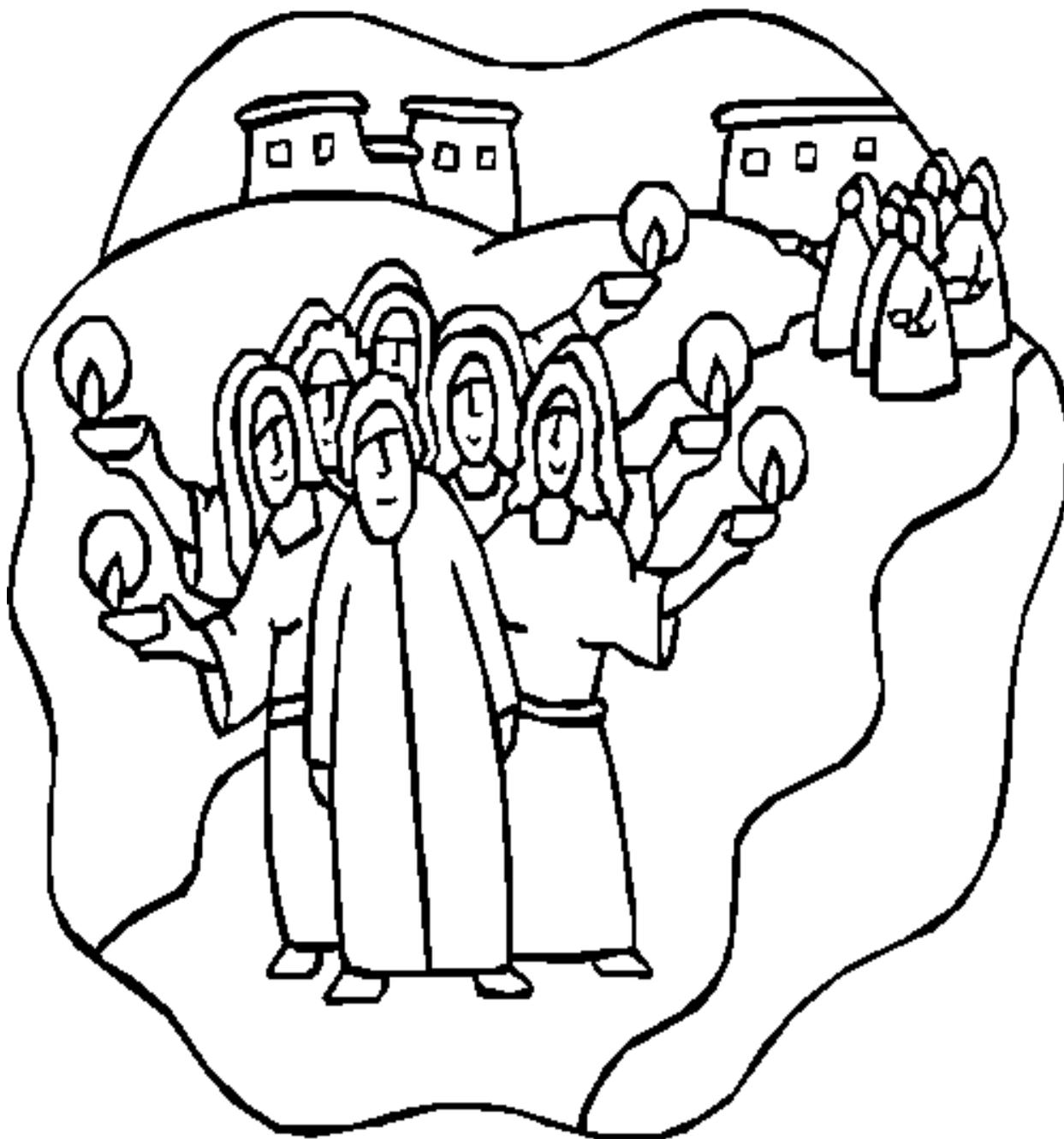
The World Is Very Evil - TLH #605

Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying - TLH #609

And Will The Judgment Descend - TLH #610

# The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13



## The Story

While Jesus was on the Mount of Olives with His disciples, He told the disciples a story about Heaven. The kingdom of heaven is like ten young women, called virgins. They are called virgins because they are not married yet. These ten young women took their lamps and went to meet a bridegroom (the man who was getting married)

Five of the virgins were wise (smart). The other five virgins were foolish (not smart). Those who were foolish did not take any oil for their lamps. The virgins that were wise did take oil for their lamps.

While the virgins were waiting for the bridegroom to come, they fell asleep. At midnight someone called out: "The bridegroom is coming. Go out to meet him."

All of the virgins got up and lighted their lamps (because it was dark out). The virgins who were foolish said to the wise virgins, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps have burned out."

But the wise virgins answered saying, "No, we cannot give you oil. If we do, there will not be enough for us. Go, buy yourselves some oil."

So, the foolish virgins went to buy themselves some oil. While they were gone the bridegroom came and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

Now no one else was welcome into the wedding. The foolish virgins arrived after the door was shut.

They knocked and called out, "Lord, Lord, open to us!" But the bridegroom would not let them in - they had come too late.

Jesus told this story to the disciples to teach them that they must always be ready for Christ's second coming. We too need to be ready when Jesus comes again to take us to heaven.

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

***Jesus told a parable or story explaining Judgment Day.***

**Activity One** - Have the children re-enact the story - Pick a boy to be the bridegroom and the others can be the ten virgins. Let the kids have fun with it, just as long as they are portraying what the Bible says.

**Activity Two** -Follow the directions to make a picture to help with the memory passage.

Matthew 24:42

<p><b>“Watch therefore,</b> <i>* draw a pair of eyes or glasses to represent watching</i></p>	<p><b>for you do not know what hour</b> <i>* draw a clock</i></p>	<p><b>your Lord is coming.”</b> <i>*draw Jesus coming on the last day</i></p>
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***When we die our soul will go to heaven to be with Jesus.***

## Passage

Matthew 24:44 - Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

## Hymn - TLH #609 v. 1

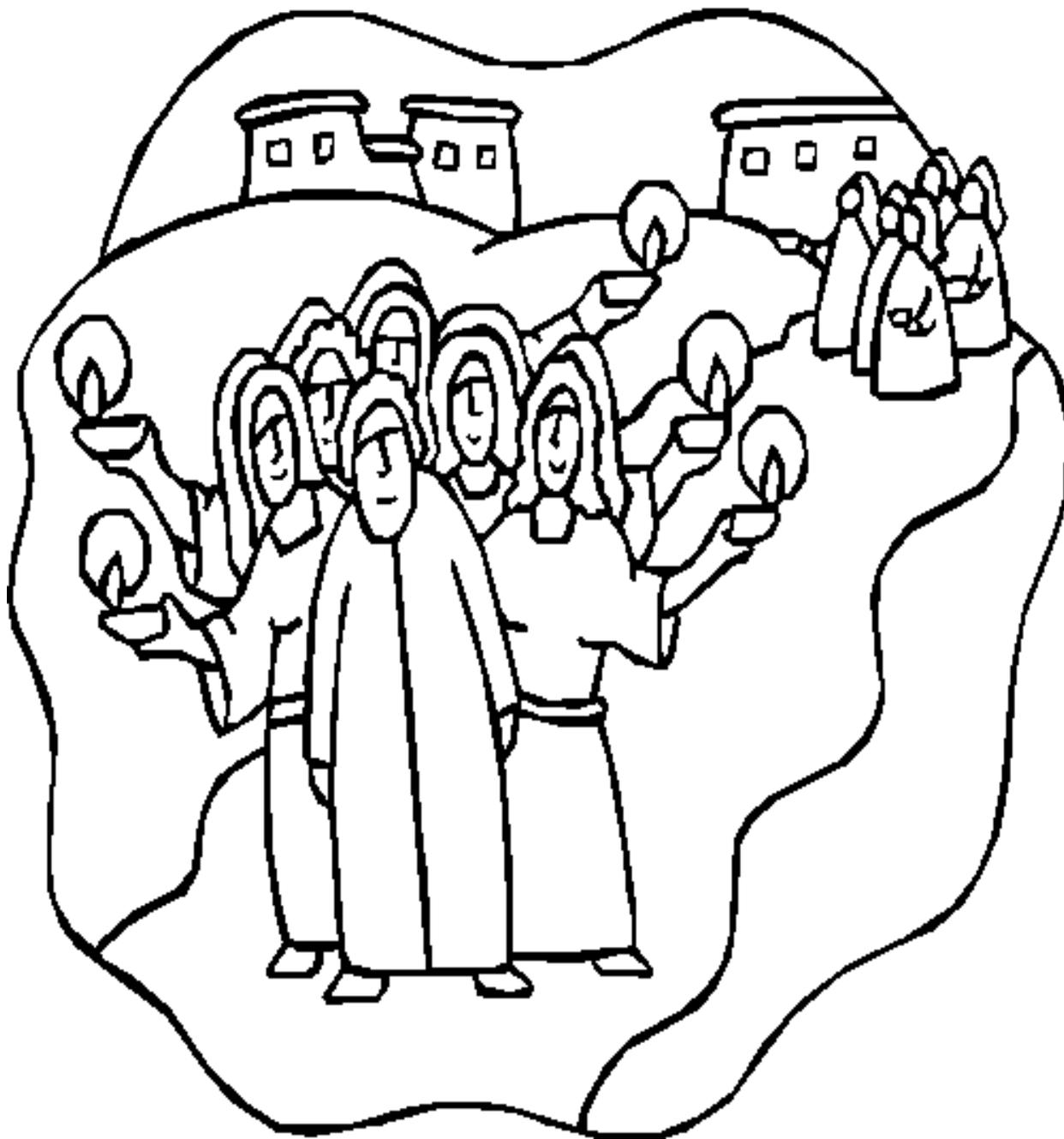
"Wake, awake, for night is flying,"  
The watchmen on the heights are crying;  
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"  
Midnight hears the welcome voices  
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:  
"Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?  
The Bridegroom comes, awake!  
Your lamps with gladness take! Hallelujah!  
With bridal care yourselves prepare  
To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,  
Thank You for sending Jesus to live a perfect life and to die for our sins on the cross.  
Thank You also for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts to give us faith. Please keep that lamp of faith full of oil from Your Word so that we are ready to meet You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

# The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13



## The Story

Jesus, as he was sitting outside of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives, was approached by His disciples. They were asking about the end of the world, and how they were going to know when it was coming. Jesus then talked for a little while, and then decided to tell them a story which had a heavenly meaning to it.

Jesus started out the parable by saying that at the end of this world, the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. A bridegroom is a man who is about to get married. Jesus then told his disciples that five of these virgins were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps, but they didn't take any oil with them. They needed oil because that is one of the main things they needed to keep their lamps lit. The wise virgins, however, took extra oil with them in jars.

It took a while for the bridegroom to come, and because of this the virgins all ended up falling asleep. Then, around the middle of the night, it was announced that

the bridegroom was coming, and that they should come to meet him. The virgins then prepared their lamps to light the way to see him, and the foolish virgins then asked the wise ones if they had any extra oil because they knew that their lamps did not have enough oil.

The wise virgins told the foolish virgins that they could not give any of their oil away because they did not know if there would be enough for all of them. They also told them that they should try to find somebody who sells oil and buy some from them.

But, while the foolish virgins had gone off to buy the oil, the bridegroom came and the virgins who were ready went into the wedding feast with him, and then the door was shut. Finally, the foolish virgins got back to the door, and they cried out for the door to be opened. But the bridegroom told them that he didn't know them.

Jesus then told his disciples that they should always be prepared because they cannot know the day or even the hour in which the destruction of this world will come.

*Jesus told a parable, or story, explaining Judgment Day.*

## Activity One - Answer the following about the parable.

1. To whom was Jesus talking?
2. How many virgins were there in Jesus' story?
3. For Whom were these virgins waiting?
4. What did the foolish virgins forget?
5. Who got locked out of the feast?
6. Why did they get locked out?
7. What did the bridegroom tell the virgins when they knocked on the door?
8. What was the lesson that Jesus had behind this story?

## Activity Two - Follow the directions to make a picture to help with the memory passage.

### Matthew 24:42

<p><b>"Watch therefore,</b> <i>* draw a pair of eyes or glasses to represent watching</i></p>	<p><b>for you do not know what hour</b> <i>* draw a clock</i></p>	<p><b>your Lord is coming."</b> <i>*draw Jesus coming on the last day</i></p>
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*When we die our soul will go to heaven to be with Jesus.*

## Passages

Matthew 24:44 - Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

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The watchmen on the heights are crying;  
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## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for sending Jesus to live a perfect life and to die for our sins on the cross. Thank You also for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts to give us faith. Please keep that lamp of faith full of oil from Your Word so that we are ready to meet You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

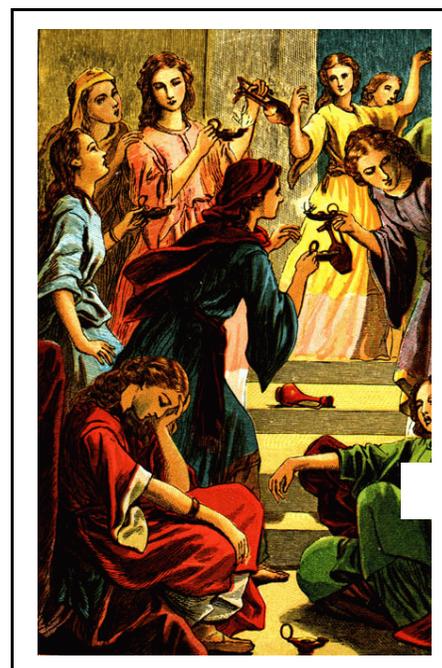
# The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

What do you know about the customs of weddings during Jesus' time and in His country?

They had what we might call a parade going to the wedding and wedding feast. There would be unmarried young women waiting to take the Bridegroom to the wedding.

Let's study this parable Jesus told and find the meaning for our lives.



## Prayer

Dear Lord, Help us to study the lesson of the ten virgins today and learn to be prepared for our death. May we be willing listeners and take to heart the lesson of faith. Amen.

## The Story - Matthew 25:1-13

"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.

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**Outer Aim - Jesus told a parable or story explaining Judgment Day.**

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## What the Story Tells Us - True or False

1. \_\_\_\_ When Christ comes He will come at midnight.
2. \_\_\_\_ We will be warned when Christ is coming.
3. \_\_\_\_ Believers are wiser than unbelievers.
4. \_\_\_\_ Those without oil will be damned.
5. \_\_\_\_ Believers are wise and unbelievers are foolish.
6. \_\_\_\_ Be prepared for Christ means we are going about His work.
7. \_\_\_\_ Only women can go to heaven.
8. \_\_\_\_ Parfait has got to be just about the best thing on earth.
9. \_\_\_\_ In this parable Christ is condemning sloth.
10. \_\_\_\_ Everyone who believes is ready for Christ coming.

## What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss the following.

Look at Matthew 7:21 -

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven,  
but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

According to this passage who is ready for the coming of Christ?

What is the will of His Father?

Is this Law or Gospel?

Read Matthew 7:22

Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

What do the unbelievers claim in an attempt to gain Heaven?

If their claim was valid would they have been received into bliss (compare Matthew 25:34-36 below)?

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: {35} 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; {36} 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

Since this passage so clearly portrays the Law as the key to heaven how does it fit with the passage "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9) ( be sure to look at the context of the passages)?

Who then is truly prepared for the Coming of our Lord?

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**Inner Aim - When we die our soul will go to heaven to be with Jesus.**

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## Passages

Matthew 24:44 - Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

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The watchmen on the heights are crying;  
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Midnight hears the welcome voices  
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"Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?  
The Bridegroom comes, awake!  
Your lamps with gladness take! Hallelujah!  
With bridal care yourselves prepare  
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Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee,  
Let men and angels sing before Thee,  
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone.  
Of one pearl each shining portal,  
Where, dwelling with the choir immortal,  
We gather round Thy radiant throne.  
No vision ever brought,  
No ear hath ever caught, such great glory;  
Therefore will we eternally  
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee. Amen

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,  
Thank You for sending Jesus to live a perfect life and to die for our sins on the cross.  
Thank You also for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts to give us faith. Please keep that lamp of faith full of oil from Your Word so that we are ready to meet You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

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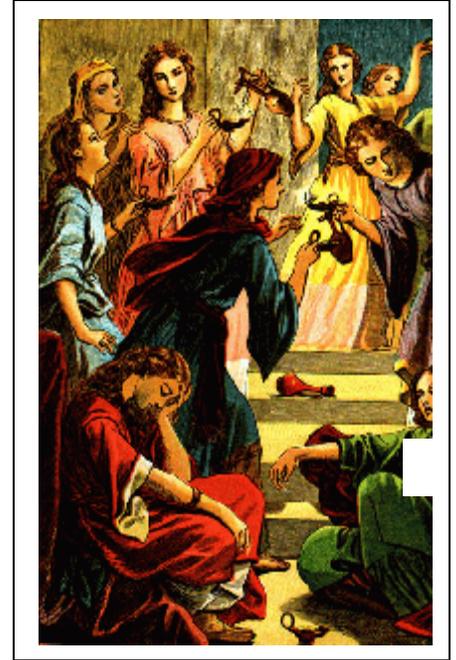
Do you remember the customs of weddings during Jesus' time and in His country?

They had what we might call a parade going to the wedding and wedding feast. There would be unmarried young women waiting to take the Bridegroom to the wedding.

Let's study this parable Jesus told and find the meaning for our lives.

## Prayer

Dear Lord, Help us to study the lesson of the 10 virgins today and learn to be prepared for our death. May we be willing listeners and take to heart the lesson of faith. Amen.



## The Story - Matthew 25:1-13

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## Outer Aim - Jesus told a parable or story explaining Judgment Day.

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With harp and cymbal's clearest tone.  
Of one pearl each shining portal,  
Where, dwelling with the choir immortal,  
We gather round Thy radiant throne.  
No vision ever brought,  
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Therefore will we eternally  
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee. Amen

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