

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

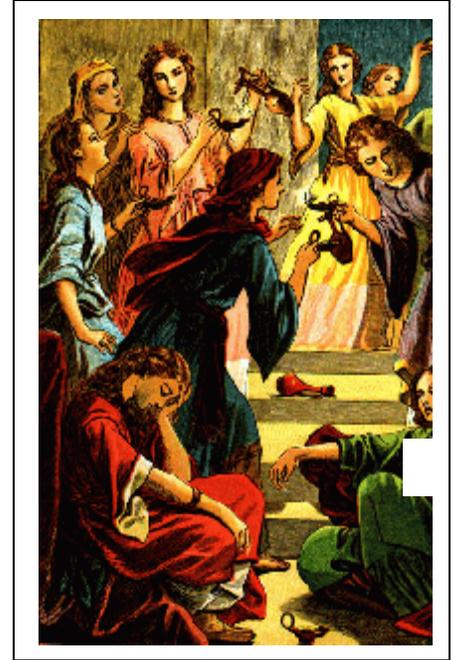
Do you remember the customs of weddings during Jesus' time and in His country?

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

"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.



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

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. ____ No one knows the exact time of Christ's second coming.
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?

Inner Aim - 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."

Matthew 24:42 - Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

Hymn - TLH #609 v. 1, 3

"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."

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.