

Welcome!

- ✓ *Grab a cup of coffee and breakfast.*
- ✓ *Say hello to someone you don't know.*
- ✓ *We'll gather at 10:20am.*

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Preparing our Hearts for Worship

What is the Good News?

*“When we were utterly helpless,
Christ came at just the right time and died
for us sinners. Now, most people would not be
willing to die for an upright person, though
someone might perhaps be willing to die for a
person who is especially good.”*

*But God showed his great love for us,
in that, while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us ...*

*So now we can rejoice in our
wonderful new relationship with
God because our Lord Jesus Christ
has made us friends of God.”*

– Romans 5:6-8, 11

Psalms, Proverbs & Parables



Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

Matthew 25:1-13



Matthew 25:1-4

1 At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten bridesmaids (virgins) who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

Similarities

1. All ten bridesmaids were in the wedding party.
2. All ten carried lamps that were lit and burning
3. All ten fell asleep waiting

Differences

The only difference was...

Meaning

- **LAMP** – the outward life (i.e., testimony of faith, church attendance, acts of service, etc.)
- **FLASK** – the hidden life before God
- **OIL** – inward reality of genuine spiritual life produced by the Holy Spirit

Matthew 25:5

Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep.

“The foolish virgins were equipped for a short wait and a quick celebration, and if the bridegroom had come early, their emptiness might never have been exposed at all. But he delayed, and the delay did what delays always do, it outlasted everything that was not real. This is the searching truth our generation of instant decisions and raised hands needs to hear.”

– Jeremiah Knight

Test of Time

“Endurance reveals true faith.” – Jeremiah Knight

“We glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance (endurance); perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” – Romans 5:3-5

Matthew 25:6-9

6 At midnight the cry rang out: *'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'* 7 Then all the bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps.
8 The foolish ones said to the wise, *'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'* 9 *'No,'* they replied, *'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'*

Borrowed Faith

Each person must carry their own supply of oil.
In the same way that oil cannot be borrowed,
neither can faith.

You can't borrow faith from a parent, spouse, child,
friend, pastor, neighbor, or anyone else.
It must be yours.

Matthew 25:10

10 But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The bridesmaids who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

The Door Was Shut

“Behold! Today is the day of salvation!”

– 2 Corinthians 6:2

“The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim.” – Romans 10:8

Matthew 25:11-13

11 “Later the others also came. *‘Lord, Lord,’*
they said, *‘open the door for us!’*

12 “But he replied, *‘Truly I tell you,*
I don’t know you.’

13 “Therefore, keep watch, because you do not
know the day or the hour.

Oil in Your Lamp

Eternal life is not about being religious.
It is being known (by Christ).

The command for “watchfulness” is about
having “oil in your lamp.”

Believe + Receive = Become

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” – John 1:12

Confess + Believe = Saved

“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” – Romans 10:9

Where do we get this oil?

Go to Jesus, confess your empty flask, and ask for
Him to fill you up. He will!

*"He who has the Son has the life; he who does not
have the Son of God does not have the life."*

- 1 John 5:12

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The Blessing

Romans 15:13

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”