

Church of God Sunday School



PARABLES OF JESUS: THE TEN VIRGINS

Matthew 25:1-13

Have you ever been to a wedding? Wasn't it exciting? Have you ever wondered what weddings were like in the Bible? They were very different from most weddings today. Jesus used the thought of a wedding to teach His disciples an important lesson about the end of time.

Jesus told a parable (story), and He said that the Kingdom of Heaven is like "ten virgins [pure young ladies], which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom."

In Bible times, a wedding lasted seven days. On the night of the seventh day, the bridegroom would go to the home of the bride, where she was waiting for him with her bridesmaids. When the bridesmaids would hear that the bridegroom was coming, they would go out with their lamps to light the way for him. The bridegroom would then take his bride to his father's house.

In Jesus' story, as the ten virgins were waiting for the bridegroom to come, some began to slumber and some fell asleep. It was late, and the bridegroom "tarried," or did not come when they expected him. At last at midnight, a cry was heard, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."

The ten virgins needed light (remember, it was midnight). So, they trimmed their lamps (cut off the burnt part of the wick) and added oil. Five of the virgins had not brought extra oil with them. (Jesus called them "foolish.") These five virgins found that their lamps had gone out.

The five foolish virgins asked the five virgins who had brought oil to give them some of their oil. (Jesus called these virgins "wise.") But the five wise virgins said, "Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that

sell, and buy for yourselves." So, the five foolish virgins went out to buy oil.

While these foolish virgins were gone, "the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage." When the five foolish virgins returned, they found that "the door was shut." They knocked on the door, saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us." But it was too late! The bridegroom told the foolish virgins, "I know you not."

Jesus ended this parable by saying, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." Jesus is the Bridegroom, and one of these days He will return for His bride (the church). This is called the Second Coming of Christ, because it is when Jesus will come again. Some people are becoming careless with their souls as they wait for His coming.

The lamps in our story are individual experiences of salvation (deliverance and power from sin), and the oil is having God's Spirit in our lives.

When Jesus comes, there will be no time to fill your lamp if it has gone out. You will not be able to borrow oil from someone else. That is why it is so important to have Jesus living in your heart right now. You must keep your heart right with God by praying and reading and obeying the Bible. Then your lamp will not go out.



No one knows the day or the hour when Jesus will come. If you know that your heart is not right, do not wait to ask God's forgiveness and help. How sad if Jesus were to come and you were not ready! How sad to hear Jesus say, "I know you not."

Why not talk to God right now? Jesus wants everyone to be ready when He comes.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come."

—Matthew 24:42

Fill in the Blanks



Five of them were _____.

They brought extra _____

with them.



Five of them were _____.


They took no extra _____

with them.

Wise or Foolish?

- A. had extra oil for their lamps
- B. went to find oil
- C. didn't have enough oil to share
- D. bridegroom didn't know them
- E. were out of oil
- F. went with the bridegroom
- G. knocked on the door
- H. were ready for the marriage

(Put the letters in the correct boxes)

 Which Were Wise?	Which Were Foolish? 