

Sermon Notes

**READY OR NOT:
LIVING IN
PREPARATION
FOR CHRIST'S
RETURN**


Matthew 25:1-13



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April 6th | 10:45 AM CDT
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Matthew 25:1–13 (ESV)

¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

April 6, 2025

(Answer key located on back page)

INTRODUCTION

Like arriving at the airport with an _____ passport, Jesus teaches that spiritual _____ cannot be achieved at the last minute.

I. THE PREPARATIONS REVEALED (Matthew 25:1-5)

- The _____ virgins brought lamps but no extra oil.
- The _____ virgins brought both lamps and additional oil.
- Lamps represent the _____ aspects of faith that everyone can see.
- Oil represents the _____ spiritual life and presence of God's Spirit.

II. THE PREDICAMENT REALIZED (Matthew 25:6-9)

- The foolish virgins discovered their lamps were going _____.
- Spiritual readiness cannot be _____ at the last minute.
- Some preparations cannot be _____ when crisis arrives.

III. THE PARTITION RENDERED (Matthew 25:10-13)

- Those who were ready went in, and the door was _____.
- The bridegroom's response: "I do not _____ you"
- Jesus keeps the timing of His return _____ on purpose.
- The separation is the natural result of _____ we make throughout our lives.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

What spiritual "oil reserves" am I currently developing?

Where might I be relying on appearances rather than authentic relationship with Christ?

COMMITMENT:

This week I will strengthen my spiritual preparation by:

KEY VERSE TO REMEMBER:

Matthew 25:13 (ESV)

¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

NEXT STEPS:

- ☐ Create a Spiritual Reserves Inventory this week
- ☐ Begin a 20-minute morning preparation ritual
- ☐ Conduct a self-examination using Psalm 139:23-24



Answer Key

Introduction: expired, readiness I. The Preparations Revealed: • foolish • wise • visible/outward • inward II. The Predicament Realized: • out • borrowed • shared/transferred	III. The Partition Rendered: • shut • know • unknown • choices
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The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, (Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **"God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins. Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

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