



## Sermon Overview

### ***Sunday, November 3 (Matthew 25.1-13)***

Jesus' delay in coming may be long to us, but His return in judgment will be sudden and irreversible, so we must be prepared by trusting Him now with a persevering faith that bears fruit. This first parable in chapter 25 deals with the specific call for genuine disciples to persevere to the end. The kingdom of heaven is not for those who simply respond to an invitation, make a confession or express some affection. The kingdom of heaven instead is for those who endure to the end. So, may we have watchful hearts and not presume we are prepared. May we examine our hearts and make sure we are trusting Christ for our salvation at this very moment.

### ***Discussion Questions***

1. What is a parable? What does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven to in this parable? Who do the ten virgins represent? Their lamps and oil? The two different groups of five virgins? The bridegroom? What does the bridegroom's delay represent? The coming of the bridegroom? The wedding feast (Revelation 19.7-9)? The door being shut? What is another familiar text that parallels 25.11-12 (Matthew 7.21-23)?
2. Do you ever doubt that Christ's second coming will actually happen? What are some factors that lead you to question whether this promise will actually be fulfilled?
3. What does this text say about genuine faith versus dead faith? How are endurance and faithfulness – marks of true, saving faith – different from attempting to earn a right standing before God?
4. Look at Matthew 13.5-6; 20-21. What do we learn from this parable that we also see noted in the parable about the virgins/bridesmaids)?
5. So, if I say I have a past response to Jesus' invitation to salvation, yet today I am not following Him today what is the problem according to this text? So, what does this mean for us in light of *today* and *this very moment*?