

“Parable of Jesus: The Ten Bridesmaids”

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Matthew 24:36-44 – ³⁶“No one knows when that day or time will be, not the angels in heaven, not even the Son. Only the Father knows. ³⁷ When the Son of Man comes, it will be like what happened during Noah’s time. ³⁸ In those days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving their children to be married, until the day Noah entered the boat. ³⁹ They knew nothing about what was happening until the flood came and destroyed them. It will be the same when the Son of Man comes. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field. One will be taken, and the other will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding grain with a mill. One will be taken, and the other will be left.

⁴²“So always be ready, because you don’t know the day your Lord will come. ⁴³ Remember this: If the owner of the house knew what time of night a thief was coming, the owner would watch and not let the thief break in. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at a time you don’t expect him.”

1. We are in a _____ war in this world. The war is between God & the forces of evil.
2. Satan is the author of _____. The Bible says in II Corinthians 11:14: “Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.”
3. Satan’s GREATEST desire is that we doubt, question, lack _____ in God, so that he can offer alternative suggestions for truth in the hopes he will _____ us to listen to him rather than God.
4. Satan’s intent when it comes to every human being is to “steal, kill & destroy.” He is _____, intent, determined, & relentless to bring any kind of separation he can between God & humans.
5. The scriptures we just read make it very clear that NO ONE knows the _____ or the _____ Christ will return to earth. Christ doesn’t even know. ONLY God knows.
6. The Bible has told us we will _____ know the time.
7. Christ’s return will be _____ & unexpected.
8. Therefore, we should be highly _____ people to live each & every day prepared to leave this earth at any moment.

9. We are to be about God's business of _____ Him, loving others, & helping to get out the story of God's love found in a personal relationships with Jesus.
10. In this parable, the bridegroom is _____, and the ten bridesmaids represent the _____ waiting for Christ's return.

Matthew 25:1-13 – “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to wait for the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The five foolish bridesmaids took their lamps, but they did not take more oil for the lamps to burn. ⁴ The wise bridesmaids took their lamps and more oil in jars. ⁵ Because the bridegroom was late, they became sleepy and went to sleep.

⁶ “At midnight someone cried out, ‘The bridegroom is coming! Come and meet him!’ ⁷ Then all the bridesmaids woke up and got their lamps ready. ⁸ But the foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ The wise bridesmaids answered, ‘No, the oil we have might not be enough for all of us. Go to the people who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ “So while the five foolish bridesmaids went to buy oil, the bridegroom came. The bridesmaids who were ready went in with the bridegroom to the wedding feast. Then the door was closed and locked. ¹¹ “Later the others came back and said, ‘Sir, sir, open the door to let us in.’ ¹² But the bridegroom answered, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t want to know you.’ ¹³ “So always be ready, because you don’t know the day or the hour the Son of Man will come.”

11. There are some similarities between the bridesmaids:
 - A. Each had a lantern & was dressed in the garment of a _____.
 - B. They all acted like one another & had the same _____.
 - C. None suspected that there was anything _____ with the others.
12. This is a picture of the _____ church today. People who claim to be Christians look the same _____. They say the right things & do the right things – on the OUTSIDE.
13. There are some differences between the wise & foolish virgins:
 - A. Five of the bridesmaids had no oil They are described as _____.
Oil in the Bible is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13 says: “...When you heard the true teaching – the Good News about your salvation – you believed in Christ. And in Christ, God put his

special mark of ownerships on you by giving you the Holy Spirit that he had promised.”

B. Five foolish bridesmaids did not possess the Holy Spirit – they were not _____ Christians.

Romans 8:9b: “.....the person who does not have the Spirit of God does not belong to Christ.”

14. While these individuals may be very active in the church, they have never been _____ again, & have no personal relationship with Christ. They are _____ Christians.
15. The only way that an individual can be a “ _____ ” to the world is by being FILLED with God’s Spirit.

Matthew 5:14 says: “You (referring to the disciple of Christ) are the light of the world.”

16. If you are a devout & developed follower of Christ, you will be “ _____ ” in this dark world.
17. The Holy Spirit comes directly to each of us from _____. Grace, salvation & forgiveness of our sins come directly from God. We cannot _____ them from other people.
18. Each of us must stand _____ before the judgment seat of God.
19. When Jesus Christ returns to earth, we must be _____. Spiritual preparation cannot be bought or borrowed at the last minute. Your relationship must be your _____.