

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

Matthew 25: 1-13

December 14, 2008 Sunday pm

INTRODUCTION

- A. During Jesus' final week he offered what has been called, "The Olivet Discourse" (Matt. 24).
 - 1. Some believe Jesus was just talking about the destruction of Jerusalem, which occurred in 70 A.D.
 - 2. Some believe Jesus was talking about the Second Coming.
 - 3. He probably was talking about both events, the first shadowing the latter.
- B. Following this important discourse Jesus told the parable of "The Ten Virgins".
 - 1. Its found in Matt. 25:1-13.
 - 2. Let's consider its meaning and lessons for us today.

I. FIRST, WHAT DOES THE PARABLE MEAN?

- A. READ IT—v.1-12.
- B. Jesus used the parable as a warning—v.13.
- C. What does the parable mean?
 - 1. Jesus prefaced the parable in Matt. **24:42-44**.

Matthew 24:42-44 ⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

- 2. Jesus' application dove tails with this preface—v.13.
- 3. This same warning is issued by others.

Paul

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 ¹ Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ² for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.

Peter

2 Peter 3:10-12 ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. ¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

Jesus

Revelation 3:2-3 ² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

II. WHAT LESSONS CAN WE SEE IN THIS PARABLE?

- A. First, Christians are like these waiting virgins,.
 - 1. Some of us are wise in our use of God's time i.e. in the way we live and share our faith.

2. Some of us aren't.
 3. Which are we?
- B. Second, each of us is responsible for himself.
1. The wise virgins could not share their oil with others—v.9a.
 2. No one can accept Christ for us. God has no “grandchildren” only “children”.
- C. Third, there are no second chances beyond this life.
1. The foolish virgins were not allowed into the wedding—v. 10-12.
 2. When we die or the Lord comes, there are no second chances to be saved.

CONCLUSION

- A. This parable reminds us that some day Jesus will come again.
- B. The only question is will we be ready? i.e. are we saved.
- C. The other question is will our family and friends be ready? It may be up to us.