

Date: 10.29.2004

Passage: Matthew 25:1 – 13 (Parable of the Ten Virgins)

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What does the following represent in the parable?

Bridegroom: Jesus

Kingdom of heaven: Church

Ten virgins: People of faith/ Christians/ Christians who are not walking in the faith

Lamp: Truth/ Bible/ Faith

Oil: Spiritual life/ Spiritual fruits/ Salvation/ True Faith/ Level of oil shows the level of preparation to meet Jesus

*Compare and contrast the foolish and the wise virgins?*

The foolish were caught unprepared while the wise, invested in getting the oil and making sure that they have extra oil. The foolish could also be those Christians who shined the light for a while then fade away.

*What happens when the bridegroom arrives?*

It represents Jesus' second coming and judgment day. He comes to take the believers and it will be too late for the foolish ones to accept because judgment is here.

*Discussion points:*

- Everyone is accountable for his own faith. Relationship with God is personal. It does not matter how others see you, but how God sees you. (Romans 14:1-4)
- All the foolish and wise virgins got drowsy and fell asleep while waiting for the bridegroom. In real life, people are imperfect and there will be failures. However, the true Christians will still have the heart for God.

*Questions:*

- How do we watch out for the level of oil we have? One possibility is to have fellowship with other Christians so that we can keep each other accountable.
- Are we ready for Jesus' return? Or have we been too busy with our work, relationships, or school to pay attention to our spiritual growth?
- How do we know we are saved? When you are saved, you not only believe that Jesus Christ is your personal Savior, but also abide in Him daily. To abide in Him daily is to read His word, to follow His commandments, and to love each other (John 14:15 - 15:17).
- How do we get to the point where we will be ready to enter the banquet?
- Which one am I? The foolish one or the wise one?