

The Parables *of Jesus*

THEN HE SPOKE
MANY THINGS TO
THEM IN
PARABLES...
MATTHEW 13:3

The Ten Virgins



Matthew 25:1-13

The Ten Virgins



Matthew 25:1

Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

- Jesus uses a familiar 1st Century Custom.
- The bridegroom and “best man” (friend) would escort the bride and all of her attendants (Ten Virgins) to the wedding.
- The wedding pageant would be at night and each attendant would have an oil lamp to light the procession.

The Ten Virgins



Matthew 25:2-4

Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

- Five of the bride's attendants (virgins) took enough oil to keep their lamps burning, these are called wise.
- The foolish ones did not have enough oil for their lamps and their lamps went out before the procession began.

The Ten Virgins



Matthew 25:5-6

But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!

- We are not told why the bridegroom was delayed—obviously, this wasn't considered important.
- Delays were not that unusual (five-foresaw that possibility).
- Furthermore, it was customary for the time of arrival to be kept secret.

The Ten Virgins



Matthew 25:7-8

Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.

- The foolish attendants didn't account for the delay. On their way to meet the bridegroom and join the procession their lamps were not lit.
- Then they tried to borrow oil from the wise.

The Ten Virgins



Matthew 25:9

But the wise answered, saying, no, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.

- The foolish were denied; they also were reminded that there was not enough oil available to give any to them.
- Instead, the five foolish attendants (virgins) were told to go to the merchants and purchase more oil.

The Ten Virgins



Matthew 25:10

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

- While gone to purchase more oil, the bridegroom came, and the wedding party (the five wise virgins) entered into the wedding.
- The closing of the door indicated entrance to the wedding was locked!

The Ten Virgins



Matthew 25:11-12

Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us! But he answered and said, assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.

- After the door to the wedding was closed, the returning foolish attendants (virgins) pleaded for another chance.
- But they were not given a second opportunity; they were denied entrance into the wedding.

The Ten Virgins



Matthew 25:13

Watch therefore, for you know
neither the day nor the hour in
which the Son of Man is coming.

- Jesus makes an astonishing clear application to this parabolic story:

**BE PREPARED
FOR HIS
RETURN!**

Three Crucial Applications

- **Outward Piety is Never Enough**
- **Some Things are Not Transferable**
- **Can't Recall Lost / Wasted Opportunities**

Your Door is Open

- To Develop Internal Righteousness
—Likeness of Christ
- To Work out YOUR Salvation
—Never Rely on Others
- To Make the Most of This Moment
—To Prepare

