



## SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“Matthew 25:1-13” on August 26 & 29, 2021

### CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed from Matthew 24:29-51 affect your week?

### DISCOVER: MATTHEW 25:1-13

1. What did the passage say (in your own words) or did you take away from the sermon this week?
2. How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
3. Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

**MATTHEW 25: 1-13** Jesus delves deeper into the idea of being ready for when He comes again by using the parable of the wise and foolish virgins awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom at a marriage banquet. The story shows us that spiritual preparation cannot be bought or borrowed at the last minute. Our readiness is constantly challenged by the opposition – Satan, who deceives, accuses and oppresses us. This passage teaches us the importance of repentance and trust in Jesus and shows us the heart of God for us, His love for us.

We have been studying about readiness and having our bags packed for the last two weeks; this week we look further into what that readiness means and what distracts us from our purpose in this life. As background reading, look at Matthew 5:13-16 and Matthew 7:21-27 side-by-side with today’s passage.

- Considering the Matthew 5 passage, how is your light shining before men? Like the virgins in today’s passage, we are waiting to meet Jesus and bring Him to the Wedding Banquet – how ready are you? Are you holding onto your oil, and do you have enough?
- In both Matthew 7 and Matthew 25, Jesus refers to the wise and the foolish. Compare and contrast the two passages and consider what ‘wise’ and ‘foolish’ mean to you and what they look like in our world right now.
- Matthew 25:13 says, “THEREFORE keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour” and Matthew 7:21 states, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” How do those passages shape your thinking and your actions in the midst of the chaos and turmoil we are experiencing in the world right now?

**THE 5 WISE VIRGINS:** The five WISE virgins didn’t know how long they would be waiting, so they made certain they had plenty of oil. Intent on being ready for the bridegroom’s coming, they were able to welcome him and provide light for his entrance to the marriage feast. Our being ready centers on our trusting in Jesus, choosing every day to continue loving Him. Central to that trust is our willingness to repent and live the life we’ve been called to live.

- Believers know Jesus will return and we know He has already conquered death – we know we win! How does this affect your motivation to set aside your self-focus and serve Jesus each and every day? What keeps you from choosing every day to repent and trust in Him as you love and serve others?
- In what ways are you looking for Jesus?