


• PARABLES OF JESUS •
ARE YOU READY?
THE TEN VIRGINS
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CELL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Read Matt 25:1-13

Background & Context:

The bridegroom is Jesus and parable speaks of His return
Both OT and NT represent the Messiah as a bridegroom
(Is 64:4-5, Jn 3:27-30)

Historical Setting:

Normally bridegroom with close friends leave his home to go to the bride's home where there were various ceremonies, followed by a processions through the streets - after nightfall - to his home
The ten virgins may be bridesmaids who have been assisting the bride, expecting to meet the groom as he comes from the bride's house. Everyone is expected to have their own torch.

Important Elements in the Parable:

1. Parable describes what the kingdom of heaven will be like at the second coming
2. The 10 Virgins - five wise and five foolish
3. They did not know the exact time the bride groom would arrive and all ten slept when he took longer than expected to arrive

The Crucial Difference Between The Wise and Foolish Virgins:

1. The wise virgins has oil for their lamps while the foolish ones did not - only the wise virgins took opportunity to get extra oil before hand.
2. Lamp often pictured in scripture as symbol of spirit of a person - Prov 20:27
3. Oil typically represents anointing of the Holy Spirit (1 Sam 16:13, Mk 6:13)

The Essential Extra:

The wise virgins carried an extra supply of oil on their person

Extra oil is a picture of Holy Spirit - 'paraclete', comforter, strengthener, our eternal supply (Jn 3:5-7)

Those who run out of oil are those:

- Who don't believe the warning signs
- Lulled into sense of false confidence because everything appears to be fine
- Wrongly assume there is plenty of time

The parable ultimately warns of the tragic consequence of those caught unprepared (Matt 25:10-12, 7:21-23)

How do we prepare?

W - wait expectantly for His second coming Mt 24:30-31

A - accept readily His gift of salvation Rev 3:20-21

T - trust His Word and promises 1 Tim 4:10

C - consecrate wholly for His purposes Rom 12:1-2

H - Holy Spirit leading Jn 16:13-14

Questions:

1. Which character do you relate to most in this parable? The wise or foolish virgins? Why?
2. What does it mean for you to live with extra oil (Holy Spirit)? Share some examples from your life.
3. In order to prepare well, we need to WATCH. Which of these do you feel you need to focus on improving?

End by praying for each other in the area of need (based on the last question).