

Ten Bridesmaids and the Second Coming



Introduction: How important is _____?

And the question is: Are you ready for the coming of the bridegroom?

I. The _____ to the Wedding – 25:1

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

This story is a _____. Jesus is using something everybody is familiar with to teach an important spiritual truth. The truth is very simple: **Be _____! Be Ready!**

The Greek word for virgins is “Parthenos”, and it speaks of young _____ who have never been with a man.

And because they did this in the night, they carried lamps. The Greek word here is “lampas” and can be translated, _____.

Look at the words, *“and went out to meet the bridegroom.”*

The torches they carried provided the light they needed when they went out to meet the bridegroom. Remember, this event took place in the evening hours.

Notice that outwardly all ten virgins looked the same.

II. The Division Between _____ and Foolish – 25:2–4

² Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³ Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

This verse says, “Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them.”

The Greek word for *foolish* is “*moros*” and means _____, inattentive, or thoughtless. We get our English word, moron from this word.

And this verse tells us, “*but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*”

The word *wise* comes from the Greek “*phronimos*” meaning _____, prudent, someone who makes careful preparation.

What is meant by the word, _____? Some translations use the word, jars (such as the NIV), flasks (such as the NAS, HCSB).

So, we have two groups of people: those who are _____, and those who are _____, the foolish and the wise.

Oil and the Holy Spirit

Are you aware that oil in Scripture is a symbol of the _____ _____? Without the Holy Spirit there is no true conversion (Acts 2).

III. The _____ of the bridegroom – 25:5

⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

We are reminded that the “*wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*”

Why the _____? Because being wise and having oil shows that you are prepared for the coming of the bridegroom.

Next, we read, “*But while the bridegroom was delayed,*”

In our story before us the bridegroom was _____ (time between Jesus' ascension and his return which has been over 2,000 years). Our text says, *"they all slumbered and slept."*

The problem is not that people sleep, but that people are not _____ when the call does come, and the bridegroom appears. It is vital that everyone be prepared for the coming of Jesus Christ.

IV. The _____ Cry – 25:6–9

⁶ *"And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'* ⁷ *Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'* 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 Midnight Cry

How did the ten _____ respond to the cry? We read, *"Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps."*

All ten bridesmaids heard the midnight cry, and they all got up and trimmed their lamps to go out and to meet the bridegroom. The five foolish virgins were _____. Look at their request in verse 8, *"And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'"*

They weren't prepared. They didn't bring enough _____ with them. Their lamps were going out.

How do the five wise virgins respond to the five foolish virgins? Look at verse 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.'"*

What do we learn from their response?

V. The _____ Door – 25:10–13

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. ¹¹ "Afterward*

the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' ¹² But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³ "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Verse 10 is a very sad commentary on the _____ virgins. Listen to these words, *"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."*

Yes, while the five foolish bridesmaids went to buy some oil, the bridegroom _____, and they missed his coming.

Now, I believe that the most solemn statement in all Scripture is seen in the words, *"and the door was shut."*

You see, once the door was closed, no one else could enter.

In verse 11-12 we read, *"Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' ¹² But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'*

You see, there will be a time when being _____ will be too late. Once Jesus returns for the second time it will be too late for second chances. Jesus will answer them and say to them, *"Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you."*

What is the tragedy here?

Conclusion: The parable of the ten virgins teaches one great truth: **Be _____!** Be ready for the coming of Jesus Christ. None of us know when He will come (whether the Rapture for believers, or the second coming for tribulation saints), but he will come at an hour when we are not expecting him. Therefore, be ready. Get yourself prepared.

Look at how Jesus closes this parable in verse 13, *"_____ therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."*

Jesus says, *"Watch"* (see Matthew 24:42), which means to stay _____ and to be alert. It means to be ready and to be prepared. Take all the necessary steps.