



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Bridesmaids, Be Ready! November 11-13, 2023

Matthew 25:1-13

¹ "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' ⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' ⁹ "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' ¹² "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' ¹³ "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

1. Do you remember the words to any of your high school cheers?
2. Is there a difference between expecting an event and being ready for an event? How so?
3. Why did Jesus describe 5 of the virgins as "foolish"?
4. Commentators offer different interpretations for what the oil in this parable represents. What argument would you make for/against each of

the following options:

Option 1: Oil = genuine faith in Jesus Christ. (cf. v 9, 12; John 3:18; Matt. 7:21-13)

Option 2: Lamp = outward form of Christianity
Flame = faith in Jesus
Oil = the Gospel in Word and Sacrament
(cf. Romans 10:17; John 15:5,7)

5. Agree/Disagree: Christians need to get ready to meet their Maker.
6. What can/will you do to keep your jar of oil full?
7. God uses his Word today to prepare you for your life tomorrow. Explain. Give an example.
8. Are you a bridesmaid or are you the bride? (cf. Eph 5:25-28; Hos 2:16,19-20)
9. How did this reading/sermon:
Convict you?
Comfort you?
Guide you?