

## Are You Ready? – The Parable Of The Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

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### **Introduction**

1. This may be the scariest of all the parables Jesus gave us in the New Testament. For it is true that there are many who profess to be Christians but don't live out that profession and will be lost when Christ returns.
  2. We must heed the warning and find shelter in Christ, so that we will be prepared to meet Him when He returns or call us to His side...
- I. **Lamps Without Oil**
    - a. In the first-century Palestine, one would usually use a small lamp to lighten the way after dark.
    - b. But a lamp without oil is useless as a modern flashlight with no bulb.
  - II. **Ten Bridesmaids**
    - a. Ten virgins were invited to wedding to serve as bridesmaids to help the bride prepare.
    - b. Five of them were wise and the other five were deemed foolish because they came unprepared.
  - III. **Lack Of Oil**
    - a. Because the groom did not arrive when expected the wedding was delayed and they fell asleep waiting.
    - b. The wise virgins had plenty of oil to keep their lamps burning but the foolish did not.
    - c. This is the distinguishing factor between the two.
  - IV. **The Arrival Of The Bridegroom**
    - a. The wise virgins were ready and the foolish ones wanted to borrow some oil but could not for they did not have extra for them.
    - b. So they left to find oil at the wise virgin's advice.
    - c. While they were gone, however, the bridegroom arrives taking them to the wedding.
    - d. When the foolish arrive they find they have been shut out.
    - e. They begged the groom to open the door but he did not know them.
  - V. **A Solemn Warning**
    - a. Jesus cautioned in Matthew 7:21-23 that just because someone professes to follow Christ does not mean He truly does and therefore Jesus never knew them.
    - b. The oil that the bridesmaids lacked was saving faith.
    - c. And Jesus warns His church to be ready, to repent and obey (Hebrews 3:12ff).
    - d. Tragically those who are foolish think they know Jesus when they don't have a real relationship with Him.
    - e. We must examine ourselves to ensure we have a saving faith that leads to be prepared, watching and waiting to meet Jesus for our wedding!