



# The Life of Jesus (89)

## The Parable of The Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13



# #1 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

In Matthew 25, Jesus continues to talk about how to prepare for His return through parables. The first parable written in this chapter is what's called the parable of the ten virgins.

This parable starts with a scene in which ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom with their lamps.



But five of them were foolish, and took their lamps but didn't take extra oil. The other five virgins were wise and took oil along with their lamps.

The bridegroom was late in coming, and all ten virgins fell asleep. Then suddenly, they heard a loud cry, 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet Him!'

So the ten virgins woke up and got ready to welcome the bridegroom in haste. But, they found that their lamps were going out.

## #2 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

The 5 wise virgins could refill their lamps with the extra oil they had brought, but the 5 foolish ones couldn't because they didn't bring extra oil, just their lamps.

“Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out” (Mt 25:8)

“No, there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.” (Mt 25:9)



The foolish virgins had no choice but to go and get oil, and while they were gone, the bridegroom arrived. The wise virgins welcomed him with their lamps and went into the wedding banquet with him. And the door was shut.

A little later, the foolish virgins came to the banquet and asked the bridegroom to open the door, but the groom told them, “truly I tell you, I don't know you” (Mt 25:12).



### #3 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

The 5 foolish virgins couldn't enter the banquet because they failed to prepare extra oil to fill their lamps.

The overall point of the parable is that Christ will return at an unknown hour and that His people must be ready for it.

“Therefore **keep watch**, because you do not know the day or the hour” (Mt 25:13)

It was a custom among the Jews for the bridegroom to come at night to the bride's house, where her bridesmaids attended her. When the bridegroom's approach was announced, these **bridesmaids went out with lamps to light the groom's way** into the bride's house for the celebration.

The ten virgins in the parable may have been bridesmaids. They all went out to meet the bridegroom with their lamps, but only five of them were able to do so. **The difference between the wise virgins and the foolish virgins was just one thing—whether or not they prepared extra oil.**

## #4 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

The parable of the ten virgins has many symbols. Each symbol teaches us important lessons about how to prepare for the last day.

### 1. The Bridegroom: Jesus Christ

In the Old Testament, God often describes His relationship with the people of Israel using the metaphor of a ‘husband.’ And in the New Testament, **Christ is pictured as the bridegroom of the church.**

**Paul:** “I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.” (2Co 11:2)

**All Christians are now engaged to Christ** through the gospel. But the wedding hasn’t yet been held—it will be held when Christ returns. On that day, we’ll welcome Him as His brides.

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready… Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” (Rev 19:7-9)

## #5 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

### 2. The 10 Virgins: Christians

The 10 Virgins represent Christians who are waiting for the Lord's coming.

The parable classifies the virgins into two groups—the wise and the foolish. The wise virgins represent true believers in Christ who are prepared for His coming while the foolish virgins represent nominal Christians who look like Christians outwardly but actually are not genuine.

What's certain is that Jesus is not talking about non-believers here. What Jesus is pointing out is that there will be wise Christians who will enter the great wedding feast in the kingdom of God and foolish Christians who won't be able to join in the banquet. And it depends on whether or not we're prepared to meet the Lord with enough oil.

## #6 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

### 2. The 10 Virgins: Christians

All the virgins were prepared with their lamps with them and they all slept while waiting for the bridegroom.

But there was a difference between the two groups. The wise took extra oil with them, which shows that **they were ready to meet the bridegroom even if he came later than they thought.**

But the foolish didn't take extra oil for themselves. They did not anticipate that the coming of the bridegroom would be so delayed. **Their failure to take extra oil made a huge difference and determined their eternal fate.**

Even though we all come to the same church today and worship God together in the same space at the same time, there can still be 'wise' Christians and 'foolish' Christians

Therefore, as Christians, we must believe the truth of the second coming of Jesus Christ. Not only so, **we must intently look forward to it, desire it, put our hope in it, and let our lives be built upon its foundation.**

## #7 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

In Timothy 6 verses 17-19, Paul instructs Timothy on how to treat the rich in his church.

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but **to put their hope in God**, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. **In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” (1Tm 6:17-19)**

The spirit of this passage must be applied to all Christians. Those who know nothing about the final judgment and eternal life, all their interests are focused on how to eat well and live well in this present world until they die.

Because they know nothing about the world to come, they don't try to store up their treasures there. They only use their possessions for the things they can enjoy in this world.



## #8 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

But those who really know and are sure that there's life after the life we have on earth now and that there's an eternal world to come, they won't seek, love, or put their hope in temporary and worldly things anymore.

Rather, they will only put their hope in God and in His promises that will be fulfilled on the day of Jesus' return.

If we have that kind of mindset, we'll stop seeking and being swayed by worldly things because no matter how good they look to us right now.

Rather than seeking what pleases us, we'll try to understand what pleases the Lord and seek it first. We'll try to live holy, godly lives here on earth as preparation for the eternal life we'll live in the kingdom of God.

And what's the result? We'll end up taking hold of the life that's truly life—the eternal life that Jesus promised to give all those who believe in Him and accept Him as their Savior and Lord.

## Memory Verses

“The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.” (Mt 25:3-4)

“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” (Matthew 25:10)

“Command those who are rich in this present world **not to put their hope in wealth**, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything” (1 Timothy 6:17)

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way **they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age**, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” (1 Timothy 6:18-19)

## Reflection Questions

1) What do you think is the biggest difference between the wise virgins and the foolish ones in the parable? Why weren't the foolish ones able to enter the wedding banquet? Which kind of virgin do you think you're closer to? And why?

2) As Christians, we should always be ready to welcome Jesus no matter when He returns. Please list some practical things you can do in order to get yourselves ready for the second coming of Jesus.