



### Matthew 25:1-13

- Matt. 25:1 “*Then* the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom (the Syriac & Latin manuscripts of Matthew add, “and the bride”).
- Matt. 25:2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.
- Matt. 25:3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,
- Matt. 25:4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.
- Matt. 25:5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.
- Matt. 25:6 “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’
- Matt. 25:7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.
- Matt. 25:8 And the foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’
- Matt. 25:9 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.’
- Matt. 25:10 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.
- Matt. 25:11 “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’
- Matt. 25:12 But he answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’
- Matt. 25:13 “*Watch* therefore, for you know neither the *day* nor the *hour* in which the Son of Man is coming.

### Notes:

Context! Keep in mind that the context of the next 3 parables that Jesus teaches is found in Matthew 24:36...

*“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”*

That is, each of these parables is designed to reinforce the truth that Jesus is coming back; but in light of the fact that *no one knows when...we need to be ready!* Watching, waiting, and working.

## Observations & Discussion

1. Let's begin by defining the characters in this Parable.

Who is the Bridegroom?

Who is the Bride?

Who *cannot* be the Bride?

Who are the Virgins?

2. Note that in vs. 1, Jesus establishes the **time frame** in which this parable is to be interpreted, He says, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be likened to..." At what point in the future will this event take place? (Hints: look at Matt. 24:3, 14, 27, 29-30, 39).

3. Note that just as in the previous *Parable of the Servants* that both groups of Virgins have the same task, same resources available, and both faced the same situation. What makes one group wise, and the other group foolish?

4. The Bible often uses oil as a metaphor for the Holy Spirit. In your opinion does that interpretation work in this parable? Why or why not?

5. Compare vss. 10-12 with Matthew 7:21-23. How are these scriptures related and how does Matthew 7:21-23 help you interpret the *Parable of the 10 Virgins*?

6. What is the lesson and application of this parable for your life?

7. What can you do now to ensure that you will be prepared to handle difficult seasons in life?