

The Ten Virgins

Setting the Stage

According to Matthew 26:1-2, at what stage in Jesus' ministry did He tell this parable?

According to Matthew 24:1-3, what led up to this story?

How are the messages of the parables on either side of the Ten Virgins (Matt 24:45-5 & 25:14-30) similar?

How does Jesus answer the disciples' question in Matthew 24:3. (See Matthew 24:36-39.)

Read Matthew 25:1-13

When is this parable set: At the engagement, or the betrothal, or the wedding?

What evidence do you find in the story to identify it?

The bridegroom represents _____ The ten young women represent _____
Consult: Matthew 9:14-15, John 3:27-29, Ephesians 5:22-32, and Revelation 21:2-9.

What was so foolish about the foolish virgins' actions?

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

"I thought Christians were supposed to be generous and share with those in need. When the five found their lamps going out for lack of oil, shouldn't the other five have given some of their own?"

When the women returned, the bridegroom wouldn't let them in because he:

- A) Was afraid they were in-laws.
- B) Didn't recognize them as part of his group.
- C) Wanted to punish them for their foolishness.
- D) Knew it was a dull party anyway.
- E) Thought they were gate-crashers

Jesus was telling the disciples:

- A) Don't forget your oil, or you'll miss the party."
- B) "Be ready for My return at any time."

For Us:

What does that message mean for you now?

React to this statement: "I live each day aware that Jesus may return tomorrow."

Why do you think that the person who really lives in expectation of the return of Christ is so rare?

Evaluate the statements; & talk about the foolishness or wisdom of each as a way of being prepared:

"Yeah, I'm prepared. I've been a member of that church ever since I was confirmed, and my wife goes to church all the time."

"We think the kids should go to Sunday School. It's important that they get a good moral education."

"I take time every morning for reading my Bible and prayer, even if it's only a couple of minutes reading Our Daily Bread. It helps me remember that I go into the day as a forgiven child of God, and that Jesus goes with me."

How can that faith be kept "burning"? How do YOU keep "oil in the lamp"?
(Romans 10:17, Acts 2:42, Hebrews 10:23-25)

Describe Paul's attitude toward the Last Day and Christ's return in II Timothy 4:6-8.

T/F The message in Jesus' parable is much like the light commercial. Why or why not?

What makes it most difficult for you to live "expectantly" to live prepared for Christ's return?

How can you deal with those things?

How can you encourage one another to live wisely?

What does Paul describe as God's promise?

See I Thessalonians 5:1-2, 8-11, 23-24 ~ Philippians 3:20-21 ~ I Peter 1:3-5