

## Parables of Jesus part 24

Various Scriptures

“And what I say to you, I say to everyone. Be alert!” -Mark 13:37

**What would you say are the primary reasons people are not prepared in life and for eternity?**

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\*Depending upon \_\_\_\_\_

**Supporting Scriptures:** Ecclesiastes 9:10; John 9:4

**Context:** As Jesus continues to speak to his disciples about being prepared, he now begins to place emphasis on the responsibility of each individual. Historically speaking it Tuesday evening of the passion week. In looking at the next parables, we must remind ourselves that Jesus encourages \_\_\_\_\_ of us to be prepared at \_\_\_\_\_ times.

### ● **Parable of the Ten Virgins: Matthew 25:1-13**

In Jesus' day there were 3 stages to a Jewish wedding. Do you know all three?

- \_\_\_\_\_: This was a formal agreement made by the fathers.
- \_\_\_\_\_: This was the ceremony where mutual promises are made.
- \_\_\_\_\_: This was approximately ***one year*** later when the bridegroom came at an unexpected time for his bride.

Why 10 virgins?

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Their \_\_\_\_\_ is not the point. Normally there were 10 lamps in a bridal procession and it was a common size of a wedding party.

In this parable the first two stages have already taken place. Now the wedding party waits for the coming of the bridegroom for the bride.

When the bridegroom came, the bride-maids, who were attending the bride, would go out to meet the bridegroom, with lamps lighted, to conduct him and his companions into the house, and to her who was to be the bride.

**5 foolish vs 5 wise....**

**What made the 5 who were foolish, foolish?**

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\*They appeared to be ready because they had their lamps, but they didn't take \_\_\_\_\_ with them. (3)

Verses 5-6 says, when the groom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. Then all of a sudden, in the middle of the night, there was a shout: "Here's the groom! Come out to meet him."

\*They \_\_\_\_\_ on the others to give them some of their \_\_\_\_\_. (8)

\*They refused to purchase some \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_. (9)

\*They were \_\_\_\_\_ for the wedding banquet. (10)

Later on after the door was shut, they came back and asked the master to open the door.... but sadly it was too late and the master did not know them.

\*They were \_\_\_\_\_ to the Master. (12)

**As you reflect on the unpreparedness of the 5 foolish virgins, what are two things you can do in your life right now to avoid their same fate? How?**

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Hosea 10:12; Luke 12:35; James 4:17

**What made the 5 who were wise, wise?**

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\*They were \_\_\_\_\_. (4)

\*They were \_\_\_\_\_. (9)

**Prudence:** Acting or showing care and thought for the future.

**Do you think they were wrong in telling the foolish virgins to go and get their own oil? Why or why not?**

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**Who do the people represent and what does this parable teach us today?**

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Isaiah 54:5; 62:5; Matthew 9:15

**Virgins:** All those who have heard the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Bridegroom:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sudden coming at midnight:** No one \_\_\_\_\_.

Those who are properly **prepared** are welcomed into the kingdom of heaven, whereas those who are not are spurned into the final judgement.

Hebrews 10:23-25

**What are some possible consequences of putting off thinking about Christ and spiritual growth until later?**

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James 1:22-25

● **Parable of the Watchful Servant: Mark 13:32-37**

Last week we saw in Matthew's gospel this portion was described as a contrast between the faithful and evil servant. Here in Mark's account, he highlights the importance of being \_\_\_\_\_.

- Remember: No one knows the \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_ when the end will come. Since we don't know we are to stay alert.

**Alert:** the state of being watchful for possible danger.

**In light of this parable, what are some dangers that we should be watchful of?**

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\*Mishandling our God-given \_\_\_\_\_. (34) Matthew 28:18-20

-Jesus has entrusted to us His **house**, His **authority**, and His **work**.

\*Being careless, unmindful, or inattentive. (35)

\*Entitlement. (36)

**What are some ways we can stay alert while we wait?**

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\*Watch out for \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 7:15

\*Put on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God Ephesians 6:11-12

\*Say \_\_\_\_\_ to ungodliness and the flesh. Titus 2:11-14

\*Tell others about Jesus. Mark 16:15

**“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.” -Hudson Taylor**

What is one thing you have learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

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**“Feeling entitled is the opposite of feeling grateful.  
Gratitude opens the heart, entitlement closes it.”**