

**Introduction:** What, if anything, are we doing to prepare for Jesus' Second Coming? And, how excited are we to see Him in the sky, as soon as possible, to be with Him forever? \*\*\* Jesus talked about His Second Coming many times in The Gospels; and, He gave His followers many admonitions about what they should do as they continually and eagerly watched for His return. And, the apostles who wrote The New Testament had much more to say about His soon coming return, which is the blessed hope of believers in the glorious appearing of their Savior (*Titus 2:11-14*). \*\*\* In today's parable, Jesus teaches that those who want to celebrate His wedding feast with Him must not run out of oil. Rather, they should always carry enough oil with them to keep their lamps burning throughout the night. \*\*\* Oil was used to anoint Aaron as the high priest (*Exodus 27:5-7*). Jesus said He had been anointed by The Spirit of The Lord for His ministry (*Luke 4:18*, quoting *Isaiah 61:1*). And, when Peter preached to Cornelius, and his family, he said God anointed [Jesus] with The Holy Spirit and power (*Acts 10:38*). From this we may safely conclude that oil is a symbol of The Holy Spirit. \*\*\* So, Jesus is teaching the necessity of continually being filled with The Holy Spirit to both be prepared for His return and to be always looking for Him in expectation and excitement. \*\*\* Now, let's look at the parable and the Psalm portion to fill out the details of this general truth. )

**I. The Kingdom of Heaven is like ten virgins going to meet the bridegroom with lamps: five took inadequate oil, were NOT ready, and were locked outside.** (*Matthew 25:1-9*)

- A. The Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten virgins who took lamps to meet the bridegroom; five foolish took no extra oil, but five wise took extra oil. (*Verses 1-5*)
1. Then, the Kingdom of the Heavens will be compared to ten virgins, who having taken their lamps, went out to a meeting of the bridegroom. (*Verse 1*)  
**Bridegroom:** Jesus is the groom of The Church, which has been betrothed to be presented to Him a pure virgin (*2 Corinthians 11:2*). The ten virgins in the parable are bridesmaids of The Church.
  2. But, five were being foolish and five wise; for the foolish, having taken their lamps, did not take oil with them. (*Verses 2-3*)  
**Fifty-fifty:** Half were foolish, having no thought of God and His ways. The other half were wise, or thoughtful. They had both hearts and minds fully dedicated to God and His ways.  
**Foolish:** The foolish ones saw no need for enough oil to keep their lamps burning all night.
  3. But the wise took oil in vessels with their lamps. (*Verse 4*)  
**Reserves:** They wanted to be ready should the groom be delayed. Are we determined to seek to be constantly filled with The Holy Spirit so we are ready for Jesus all the days of our lives in this world?

**Jesus' disciples are always ready for His arrival**

4. But the bridegroom tarrying, they all grew drowsy, and they were sleeping. (*Verse 5*)  
**Tarry:** We are not told why the groom took his time and was slow to arrive for his wedding celebration, only that he tarried.  
**Grew drowsy:** After a few hours all the bridesmaids grew tired and they slept for a long time.
- B. At midnight the bridegroom came with a shout and the virgins, being awakened, trimmed their lamps and the foolish demanded oil from the wise, who strongly refused. (*Verses 6-9*)
  1. But in the middle of the night a shout was made: Behold! The bridegroom: you all must go out to a meeting with the bridegroom. (*Verse 6*)  
**Midnight:** By the middle of the night they have all been asleep for some time.  
**Shout came:** Suddenly a shout was made that woke them up!  
**Bridegroom:** They are told to behold the bridegroom. Then they are commanded to do the very thing they set out to do in the daylight: they are to go out to a meeting with the groom.
  2. Then all those (ten) virgins were roused and they trimmed their lamps, but the foolish said to the wise: You all must give to us out of your oil because our lamps are going out. (*Verses 7-8*)  
**ALL roused:** Both the foolish and the wise were roused into being awake and aware of their situation.  
**Foolish demand:** Those with no room for God are demanding the thoughtful ones, who knew the need for a continual supply of oil, to put themselves at risk to cover their willful lack of preparation.  
**We need oil:** They now know they need more oil because their source of light is being extinguished!
  3. But the wise were given to answer: Never! There is no way we have enough for us and you; rather, you all must go to the sellers and you all must buy for yourselves. (*Verse 9*)  
**Strong NO:** The wise realize (as a gift from God) that the request is impossible to fulfill. They have a sufficient supply of oil for themselves, but they cannot also supply those who were willfully negligent.  
**You must buy:** So, they demand the foolish bridesmaids, as a last resort, to try to quickly go and buy what they need and to hurry back while they still have opportunity to go in with the groom.  
**WE are ready:** Implicit in this they are saying: we are ready, you too should have been ready. Will we heed the words of the wise and thoughtful bridesmaids to always be filled with The Holy Spirit so we have the desire and strength to persist in the role God has given us to make disciples of people of all nations to hasten the return of His Savior Son?

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## II. The prepared virgins enter with the bridegroom; the unprepared are locked out; SO, be prepared for The One who is Light and Truth. (*Matthew 25:10-13; Psalm 43:3-4*)

A. After the foolish leave, the bridegroom came, the wise went in with him and the door was locked; the foolish came demanding the Lord open the door, he said: I have not known you. (*Verses 10-12*)

1. But while they went away to buy, the bridegroom came and the ones ready went in with him to the marriage celebration, and the door was locked. (*Verse 10*)

**Ready when groom comes:** Because they had sufficient oil for their lamps, the wise and thoughtful bridesmaids were ready when the groom came.

**Wise go in to celebrate:** And the wise bridesmaids followed the groom into the wedding celebrations while they still had the opportunity to do so.

**Jesus and us:** It will be the same with Jesus and us. If we are filled with His Holy Spirit and doing His will when He returns, we will go in with Him to His wedding celebration feast (*Revelation 19:5-9*) and it will be awesome!

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**Door locked behind:** But the door was locked before the foolish and unprepared bridesmaids returned.

2. But, afterward the other virgins also came, saying: Lord! Lord! Thou must open to us. (*Verse 11*)

**Later:** The foolish ones with no regard for God realize on their return that, by going away to purchase the oil they should have had, the door has been locked and they are excluded from the celebration.

**Panic:** So they panic, call the groom Lord, and demand that he open up to them.

3. But having answered, he had said: Truly I am saying to you I have not known you. (*Verse 12*)

**Not known:** The groom (Jesus) is telling them that their disregard for God and refusal to know Him and His ways has kept Him from knowing them. Further, they arrived at their proper understanding of Him too late to join Him in His special day. If we are putting off surrendering our will to walk with God in humble dependent faith, we may suffer along with these foolish bridesmaids.

B. So watch: You have not known the day or hour; be prepared and wait for He who is Light and Truth. (*Matthew 25:13; Psalm 43:3-4*)

1. Watch therefore because you have known neither the day nor the hour. (*Matthew 25:13*)

**Watch:** Jesus is strongly warning everyone, including us, to continually be watching for His return and to be ready for Him by doing His will for us as members of His Church.

**Time NOT known:** We must be ready at all times, because no one knows the time of His return. He could come at any time. Maybe today.

2. Thou must send out Thy Light and Thy Truth, and they will guide me, they will bring me to Thy holy mount and Thy dwelling place. (*Psalm 43:3*)

**Light and Truth:** Both God and Jesus are both Light and Truth.

**Shakan:** The Biblical word for dwelling is 'shakan'. When people talk about God's *shekinah* glory, they mean His glory that is ever present in our lives. God desires to dwell with His people.

3. And I will go to the altar of God, to God my rejoicing of joy, and I will praise Thee with a stringed instrument, God, my God. (*Psalm 43:4*)

**Altar:** The altar is the place where we offer ourselves up in service to God.

**Great JOY:** The result of receiving God's Light and Truth is great joy. We receive delight from God.

### ***God's Light and Truth are a delight***

**Stringed instrument of praise:** In the days the *Psalms* were written the most common stringed instrument was a harp.

The joy and excitement of God's dwelling presence, and His Light and Truth, is all we need to always be ready and prepared for Jesus' arriving in His Second Coming.

### ***Jesus' disciples are always ready for and excited at His arrival***

**Conclusion:** Jesus tells a Kingdom of Heaven parable about foolish and wise bridesmaids to warn His disciples to always have an abundance of oil with them because they cannot know when He will come and call them to His wedding celebration. SO, they must be filled with The Holy Spirit and delighted by His Light and Truth.

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