

10 Virgins

February 26, 2020

Key Verse: Matthew 25:1 “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet their bridegroom. . .”

Basic Outline for 1-hour study

Introduction: There is a section of Matthew that we have to keep in mind when understanding the context of the parable of the 10 Virgins. [In all actuality the Bible project has a great video on this] Our teaching falls in a section that consists of 5 chapters (21-25). It starts with Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, turning of tables, questions by the sadducees and teachers of the Law, a prophecy about the destruction of Jerusalem and parables to emphasize the heart of the new covenant with the disciples. These are not random events, but they are an intentional process that Matthew has preserved from Jesus’ time with him. Our part in the narrative is the end where he is applying an understanding of the greatest commandments to the current going ons in Jerusalem and his life.

Teaching: Your preparedness is a reflection on the real values of your heart. .

- ❑ **Setting the scene:** Jesus speaks of a division between those who say they are his followers and those who live it out. The parable of the 10 Virgins are answering the question: what is a practical example of the Greatest Commandment? (Love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind - Mt. 22:37) Jesus uses the example of marriage in their cultural context.
- ❑ **Current setting:** Wedding processions from bride’s to the groom’s home, accompanied by singing and dancing, normally happened at night. Therefore, light was required.
 - ❑ The lamps in ancient wedding processions were sticks wrapped with oiled rags and it was women torchbearers (the bridesmaids) who led the bride to the groom’s house.
 - ❑ It was cultural after the betrothal for the groom to go prepare a place for the bride and then come back for her.(the time of his arrival was not known).
 - ❑ The five wise bridesmaids were prepared for his return at all times, while the five foolish bridesmaids were not.
- ❑ **The result:** The five wise bridesmaids brought extra oil and were prepared for the delay. They were allowed to enter the banquet. The five foolish bridesmaids were not prepared, thus missing the entrance into the banquet. In the end the actions of each bridegroom was a litmus test to their devotion to their groom as it turns out - it was the one that mattered most. .
- ❑ **Jesus’ response:** Jesus is characterized as the bridegroom in this parable and since the foolish were not prepared for His coming, Jesus refused admittance into the banquet not only with a closed door, but also with words... *“Truly I tell you, I don’t know you”* (Matt: 25:13) probably echoing the sayings in Matthew 7:22-23. Equally it could be seen that He was saying to the other 5, “I knew you were committed to me”.

- ❑ **Our response:** How often do we think of God showing up actually impacting our lives on a daily level? God doesn't want to be a priority in our lives, He wants to be THE priority of our lives. .

Table Time: How do we implement this teaching into our everyday lives?

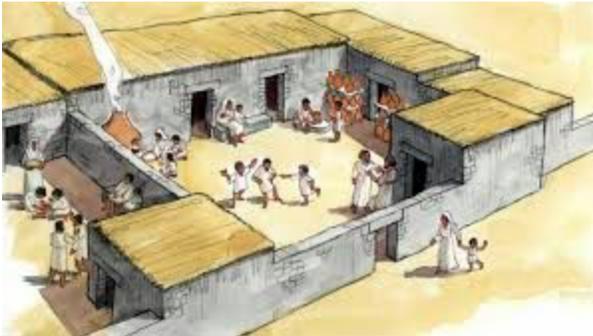
- ❑ What is keeping you from this level of devotion to Jesus?
- ❑ How is my love for God expressed in my everyday life?
- ❑ The 10 virgins were getting drowsy. Where are we slacking off in our devotion to Christ?
- ❑ How would our lives look different if this was our only priority?

Wrap-up:

From Last Week: Go around the table and share what one thing you did differently this week to show love to your neighbor?

For Tomorrow: What is one simple way that I can practically apply this teaching in my day tomorrow?

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