1. Greeting
2. Bible Declaration
3. Read Text – “***Parable of the Ten Virgins – I do not know you”***
	1. **Matthew 25:1–13 (NKJV)** 1 “Then the **kingdom of heaven** shall be likened to **ten virgins** who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2Now **five of them were wise**, and **five *were* foolish**. 3Those who *were* **foolish took their lamps and took no oil** with them, 4but the **wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps**. 5But while the **bridegroom was delayed**, they **all slumbered and slept**.
	2. 6“And at **midnight** a cry was *heard:* ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; **go out to meet him!**’ 7Then **all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps**. 8And the foolish said to the wise, ‘**Give us *some* of your oil**, for **our lamps are going out**.’ 9But 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.’ 10And 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**.
	3. 11“Afterward **the other virgins came** also, saying, ‘**Lord, Lord, open to us**!’ 12But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **I do not know you**.’
	4. 13**“Watch therefore**, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.
4. Introduction
	1. **Olivet Discourse – Matthew 24-25** Jesus discusses the destruction of the temple, the coming tribulation, and His second coming of Jesus.
		1. **Matthew 24:1–3 (NKJV)** Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2And Jesus said to them, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, **not *one* stone shall be left here upon another**, that shall not be thrown down.” 3Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, **when will these things be**? And **what *will be* the sign of Your coming**, and **of the end of the age**?”
		2. **Luke 21:25–28 (NKJV)** 25“And **there will be signs** in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth **distress of nations**, with perplexity, the **sea and the waves** roaring; 26**men’s hearts failing** them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the **powers of the heavens will be shaken**. 27Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28Now when these things begin to happen, **look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near**.” – see Luke 21:5-38
		3. **Mark 13:32–33 (NKJV)** 32“**But of that day and hour no one knows**, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33**Take heed, watch and pray**; for you do not know when the time is.
		4. **Romans 13:11 (NKJV)** 11And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to **awake out of sleep**; **for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed.**
			1. Today – Environment, Social, Political,
	2. Our text reminds us that the coming of Jesus either in the clouds (rapture) or when He rests his feet on the Mount of Olives (second coming) will reveal two classes of so called believers – professing (foolish) and possessing (wise).
		1. **Professing**: **Matthew 15:8–9 (NKJV)** 8 *‘These* *people* *draw near to Me with their mouth,* *And honor Me with their lips,* ***But their heart*** *is far from Me* 9 *And in vain they worship Me,* *Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”*
			1. **Matthew 23:25–26** 25“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! **For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence**. 26Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.
		2. **Possessing**. **John 3:3 (NKJV)** 3Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one **is born again**, he cannot **see** the kingdom of God.”
			1. **John 3:5 (NKJV)** 5Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot **enter** the kingdom of God.
			2. **2 Corinthians 1:21–22 (NKJV)** 21Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, 22who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
	3. **Many say that we are living in the last days or at least the precursor to the last days making the principles in this parable apropos.**
5. The **kingdom of heaven** in Jesus day and in our day shall be **liked to 10 virgins**
	1. **Matthew 25:1–5 (NKJV)** 1 “Then the **kingdom of heaven** shall be likened to **ten virgins** who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2Now **five of them were wise**, and **five *were* foolish**. 3Those who *were* **foolish took their lamps and took no oil** with them, 4but the **wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps**. 5But while the **bridegroom was delayed**, they **all slumbered and slept**.
		1. **PARABLE** (*parabolē – placing beside*). A story cast next to a truth to make the truth more understandable, using comparison, hyperbole, or simile.
		2. **Kingdom of heaven** – realm or people or the actual rule over which a monarch, God, reigns
		3. **Backdrop** is a Jewish wedding (great celebration for the community) consisted for 3 parts or stages.
			1. The **first stage** the **engagement** which was a contract most often arranged by the fathers of the bride and groom
			2. The **second stage** was the **betrothal**, the marriage ceremony at which the bride and groom **exchanged vows** in the presence of family and friends. At that point the couple was considered married, and their relationship could be broken only by formal divorce or death. The betrothal could last up to a year during which time the groom would establish himself in a business, trade, or farming and would make provision for a place for the couple to live.
			3. The **third phase was the wedding feast** which could last a week and the entire community became involved. This phase began with the groom’s coming with his **groomsmen** to the bride’s house, where her **bridesmaids** were waiting with her. Together the bride and groom and their attendants would then **parade through the streets** to the **groom’s father’s house or the house the groom prepared for his bride**. The procession was generally begun at night, and lamps or torches were used by the wedding party to illumine their way and to attract attention.
			4. At the end of the feast the bride and groom would be **left alone together for the first time**. The marriage would be consummated, and the couple would henceforth live together in their new home.
			5. As the parable unfolds, Jesus focuses first on the **bridesmaids**, then on the **bridegroom**, and finally on the **warning** that the parable is given to reinforce.[[1]](#footnote-1)
		4. The parable is saying that to be prepared to enter **the kingdom of heaven is comparable** to the preparedness of these **ten virgins** who served as bridesmaids at this wedding. **You need the oil the Holy Spirit**
			1. **John 3:3 (NKJV)** 3Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot **see** the kingdom of God.”
			2. **John 3:5 (NKJV)** 5Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot **enter** the kingdom of God.
		5. **Delayed** – This life is **full of delays** but God knows and works through all of them. Sometimes you are going to have to **sleep but prepare for it**.
	2. **Matthew 25:6–11 (NKJV)** 6“And at **midnight** a cry was *heard:* ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; **go out to meet him!**’ 7Then **all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps**. 8And the foolish said to the wise, ‘**Give us *some* of your oil**, for **our lamps are going out**.’ 9But 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.’ 10And 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**. 11“Afterward **the other virgins came** also, saying, ‘**Lord, Lord, open to us**!’ 12But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **I do not know you**.’
		1. As a torch or lamp w/o fuel is worthless, so is “a profession of faith in Jesus Christ without a saving relationship. That is infinitely more worthless, because one is left in spiritual darkness.”[[2]](#footnote-2)
			1. **2 Corinthians 13:5–6 (NKJV**) 5**Examine yourselves** *as to* whether you are in the faith. **Test yourselves**. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. 6But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.
			2. **1 Thessalonians 5:19–22 (NKJV)** 19Do not quench the Spirit. 20Do not despise prophecies. 21**Test all things; hold fast what is good**. 22Abstain from every form of evil.
	3. **Matthew 25:11–12 (NKJV)**11“Afterward **the other virgins came** also, saying, ‘**Lord, Lord, open to us**!’ 12But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **I do not know you**.’
		1. I do not know you – Know – oida (G1492),verb, perfect, active, indicative, first person singular – true in the past, present, and future-
		2. **Matthew 7:22–23 (NKJV)** 22**Many** will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not ***prophesied*** in Your name, **cast out demons** in Your name, and **done many wonders** in Your name?’ 23And then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness**!’
		3. **There virgin’s lamps ablazed were their entrance tickets**
		4. **2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)** 9The Lord is **not slack concerning *His* promise**, as some count slackness, but is **longsuffering** toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance**.
	4. **Matthew 25:13 (NKJV)**13“**Watch therefore**, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. – if the groom had not come so late maybe the oil …
		1. The fifth time in the discourse (see Matthew 24:36, 42, 44, 50) where Jesus called for **alertness**
		2. **Matthew 24:44 (NKJV)** 44Therefore you also **be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
		3. **Luke 21:34–36 (NKJV)** 34“But **take heed to yourselves**, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35For **it will come as a snare** on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36Watch therefore, and **pray always** that you may **be counted worthy to esca**pe all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”:
			1. **Rev 9:18-21**
6. Lessons from the parable
	1. Be Prepared – The one thing the New Testament does say about the Second Coming is that it will be as sudden as lightning and as unexpected as a thief in the night (Matt 24:27,37,39; 1 Thess 5:2; 2 Pet 3:10). **We cannot wait to get ready when it comes; we must be ready for its coming**
		1. Be born again
			1. **John 3:3 (NKJV)** 3Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot **see** the kingdom of God.”
			2. **John 3:5 (NKJV)** 5Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot **enter** the kingdom of God.
			3. **Luke 11:13 (NKJV**) 13If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who **ask Him**!”
			4. **Romans 8:9 (NKJV)** 9But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the **Spirit of God dwells in you**. Now **if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His**.
		2. Be in the word -
			1. **Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)** 4But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’* ”
			2. **Psalm 119:11 (NKJV)** 11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.
			3. **Psalm 119:133 (NKJV)** 133 Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.
		3. Be watchful
			1. **Matthew 25:13 (NKJV)** 13“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.
			2. **Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)** 18**praying** always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, **being watchful** to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints
		4. Be in prayer- listening and speaking
			1. **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)** 17pray without ceasing,
			2. **James 1:19 (NKJV)** 19So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;
		5. Exam ourself to make sure we **Get Ready, Stay Ready, Are Ready**
			1. **Psalm 139:23–24 (NKJV)** 23 **Search me, O God**, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.
			2. **2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)** 5Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified
			3. **1 Corinthians 11:31–32 (NKJV)** 31For if we would **judge ourselves**, we would not be judged…
1. John F. MacArthur Jr., [*Matthew*](https://ref.ly/logosres/mattmntc?ref=Bible.Mt25.1-13&off=2559&ctx=ness+and+festivity.%0a~A+Jewish+marriage+co), vol. 4, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1985), 84–85. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. John F. MacArthur Jr., [*Matthew*](https://ref.ly/logosres/mattmntc?ref=Bible.Mt25.1-5&off=5494&ctx=usly+worthless%2c+and+~a+profession+of+fait), vol. 4, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1985), 87. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)