



## Priorities from the Parables of our Lord Jesus

# Keep your lamps burning

Matthew 24:1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4 Jesus answered: —

### Matthew 25:1-13

Matthew 25:1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' 7 Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11 Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' 12 But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' 13 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

## The PROPHECY from JESUS

### ▲ The PREDICTED DESTRUCTION

Matthew 24:1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

- Jesus made this prediction around 30AD as his earthly ministry was drawing to a close; his prophecy was fulfilled 40 years later.
- In 70AD, the Roman army, led by Titus (Emperor 79AD–81AD), sieged Jerusalem to squash a rebellion of Judean rebels which had started four years earlier.

### ▲ The PUZZLED DISCIPLES

Matthew 24:3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

### ▲ The PROPHETIC DISCOURSE

Matthew 24:4 Jesus answered:

- In answer to the disciples' question, Jesus began a lengthy prophetic discourse contained in Matthew 24/25, reaching further into the future to the end of the age.
- The parable we consider this morning speaks to the urgent priority of being ready to meet Jesus when he comes again for us, whenever that may be.

## The PARABLE from JESUS

### ▲ The WEDDING

#### ▼ The groom was expected

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

#### ▼ The girls were eager

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

### ▲ The WISE and the WANNABES

#### ▼ Some were stupid

Matthew 25:2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

#### ▼ Some were stocked

Matthew 25:4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

### ▲ The WAITING

#### ▼ The groom was delayed

Matthew 25:5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming,

#### ▼ The girls were dozing

Matthew 25:5 and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

### ▲ The WAKEUP

#### ▼ The groom arrived as promised

Matthew 25:6 At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

#### ▼ The girls awoke and processed

Matthew 25:7 Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

### ▲ The WINNOWING

#### ▼ The oil girls entered

Matthew 25:10 But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

#### ▼ The out-of-oil girls were excluded

Matthew 25:11 Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' 12 But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

**From this parable, let's discuss principles, not parallels.**

1. Jesus will come again to be reunited visibly with his followers.
2. Until he comes, life goes on here, and we wait.
3. When he comes, some people will be ready and some will not.
4. All who will may be ready by getting stocked up spiritually.
5. There will not be time to get ready on the quick when he comes.
6. Those who are ready will participate in his festivities forever.
7. Those who are not ready will be excluded.

## The PREACHING POINT from JESUS

### ▲ WAIT and WONDER

Matthew 25:13 you do not know the day or the hour."

### ▲ WATCH and WAIT

Matthew 25:13 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

**Hear these urgent priorities from Jesus.**

1. Stay fixated on the Savior, friends.
2. Stay full of the Spirit, folks.
3. Stay focused on the future, saints.