

# Are You Prepared?

Sunday 12/22/2019

# Matthew 25

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

“And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. ’

# Matthew 25

'And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But 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.'

And 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. "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'

But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.'

# Background

- Common Reading:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> watch of the midnight prayer
  - The mass' gospel when memorizing women who were martyrs or saints
- When did the Lord say it?
  - The Tuesday prior to his crucifixion
  - When asked: 'When and how are you coming in your 2<sup>nd</sup> coming?'
- Kingdom of God
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> coming and eternal life
  - Ruling over our hearts now (the church)

# Main components

- Virgins:
  - In the field of Christ
- Ten:
  - Full number
- Five:
  - Five senses – Humanity
- Lamps/light:
  - In the church/ holy spirit
- Waiting the bridegroom:
  - Waiting for Christ

# Main components

- Foolish:
  - Lamps but no oil
  - Outer appearance
- Wise:
  - Got the lamps AND the oil
- Slept:
  - Death

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# Differences: Wise versus Foolish Virgins

## **Wise**

- Cares about INTERNAL work
- Light it tomorrow as well
- Feels that oil may be insufficient
- Careful and thorough

## **Foolish**

- Cares about EXTERNAL appearance
- Light it now (in front of people!)
- Feels having sufficient store
- Careless

# Take Home Points

- The new year is around the corner
- Take time for reflection
- You're a virgin
- How to fill your vessel
- Be ready – we don't know the time