

## Lesson 92 – PREPARE TO MEET THE LORD      Matthew 25:1-13

Matthew 25 is a continuation of our Lord's sermon on the Mount of Olives. The purpose of the sermon is to teach us that when the Lord Jesus comes again, we must be ready to meet Him. We must exercise faith, diligence, and care, always watching, and be ready to meet Him at His appearing. As we saw in the last lesson, Paul expressed how all believers desire to be found when Christ comes again (Php. 3:7-10). This readiness consists in doing the Master's will – *"Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when He cometh shall find so doing"* (Matt. 24: 46).

**(Matt. 25:1-2)** – This first parable shows how that when Christ comes to gather His people unto Himself and to judge all unbelievers, on earth at that time the visible church will be *"LIKENED UNTO TEN VIRGINS, WHICH TOOK THEIR LAMPS, AND WENT FORTH TO MEET THE BRIDEGROOM"* Who is Christ Himself. We are told that *"FIVE OF THEM WERE WISE, AND FIVE WERE FOOLISH."* The five wise virgins represent all true believers and the five foolish virgins represent all false believers, who are yet without the grace of God. This shows us that until Christ comes again to separate publicly the wise from the foolish, there will be a mixture of true believers and unbelievers even where the true Gospel is preached.

**(Matt. 25:3-4)** – Both the wise and the foolish *"TOOK THEIR LAMPS,"* which represent their professions of being virgins (true believers in Christ – cf. 2 Cor. 11:2). However, concerning the foolish (false professors), their profession was false and merely the outward form of appearing righteous unto men. This is represented in that their "lamps" had *"NO OIL."* The oil represents the powerful and effectual grace of God in Christ as invincibly applied by the Holy Spirit in the new birth by which He brings His people to believe and rest in Christ for all salvation, to repentance of dead works and idolatry, and to persevere in the faith "looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:2). The wise virgins *"TOOK OIL IN THEIR VESSELS WITH THEIR LAMPS."* So, all ten virgins had an outward profession of faith, but only five were truly made righteous in Christ (Rom. 4:6-8; 2 Cor. 5:21)! This shows all of us who profess to know and trust Christ that we must not be satisfied with a mere outward profession which will be of absolutely no benefit to our souls in the day of judgment. We must be washed in the blood of Christ, forgiven of all our sins (Heb. 9:22). We must be robed in Christ's spotless robe of perfect righteousness (Rev. 21:27; 22:11; Rom. 10:9-10).

**(Matt. 25:5-7)** – Christ's return may seem to some to be delayed, but it is not. He will come at the appointed time. Until then, we all will slumber and sleep. We will go about our daily and nightly business. When He comes again, there will be a great shout, publicly and loud, and all will be called unto Him. His true people will be caught up to be glorified with Him.

All who have died and who are found in unbelief will be raised unto judgment and revealed to be condemned for their sins. Going *“OUT TO MEET HIM”* shows that both wise and foolish expect to be found justified, and the trimming of *“THEIR LAMPS”* represents them preparing their professions of faith in Him upon whatever basis or ground they claim salvation. The foolish virgins who had no oil in their lamps represent all who claim salvation and worthiness for heaven based on their works and/or decisions (cf. Matt. 7:21-23). The wise virgins who had the oil of grace and work of the Spirit within claim no right or worthiness for heaven but the blood, the imputed righteousness, of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**(Matt. 25:8-9)** – Seeing then that their *“LAMPS ARE GONE OUT,”* and realizing then that they had no oil in their lamps, the foolish said to the wise, *“GIVE US OF YOUR OIL.”* *“BUT THE WISE ANSWERED, SAYING, NOT SO; LEST THERE BE NOT ENOUGH FOR US AND YOU: BUT GO YE RATHER TO THEM THAT SELL, AND BUY FOR YOURSELVES.”* This is not teaching that salvation and the work of the Holy Spirit can be bought by sinners. It can and has been bought for us by Christ so that we come to God without money and without price (Isa. 55:1-7). This shows us that even though we cannot buy or sell God’s grace, there is a price to be paid and it was paid in full by the blood of Jesus Christ. When we come to God for salvation, we bring the price of redemption by pleading His blood and righteousness alone for all salvation! This is what the wise are, in essence, telling the foolish to do.

**(Matt. 25:10-12)** – This shows that the foolish waited too late to seek the Lord. *“THEY THAT WERE READY WENT IN WITH HIM TO THE MARRIAGE: AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT”* – Those who are ready and prepared to meet the Lord are those who are found washed in His blood and clothed in His righteousness as evidenced by their true profession of faith in Him. When Christ comes again and gathers His people unto Himself, the door of salvation and final glory is shut, never to be opened again. When those who die in unbelief realize their standing before God and their state having their sins imputed to them, they will cry, *“LORD, LORD, OPEN TO US,”* but it will be too late. They will hear Him say, *“VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, I KNOW YOU NOT”* (cf. Matt. 7:21-23).

**(Matt. 25:13)** – *“WATCH THEREFORE, FOR YE KNOW NEITHER THE DAY NOR THE HOUR WHEREIN THE SON OF MAN COMETH”* – Watch and be prepared to meet the Lord. His standard for salvation and final glory, now and forever, is the perfection of righteousness that can only be found in the glorious Person and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 17:30-31). We watch and prepare for His coming as we look to and rest in Christ as He is revealed in God’s Word and as we examine ourselves to know if we are *“in THE FAITH”* (2 Cor. 13:5), i.e. that our profession is that truth by which the Holy Spirit brings us to faith in Christ, repentance of dead works, and perseverance in that faith (Php. 3).