

WE'RE IN A PROCESSION

Matthew 25:1-13

I. PREPARATION (verses 1-4)

- A. The kingdom of heaven is the rule of God which is everywhere, especially the church.
- B. The bridegroom is of course the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. The ten virgins a professing Christians, church members.
 - a. Five were prudent and five were foolish.
 - 1. Notice they took WITH them their lamps, extra oil. (vs. 4)
 - 2. **Matt. 24:45** "Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?"
 - b. They all intended in participating in the wedding feast, all of them.
 - c. They took no oil, perhaps none in the lamp itself and certainly none extra, they were foolish.
 - 1. Complete lack of foresight.
 - 2. Indifference to the character and significance of the occasion.
 - 3. Lack of loving attention to detail.
 - 4. They possessed the form of preparation, but not the content.
 - 5. Presumption. **James 4:16** But as it is, you boast [*falsely*] in your presumption and your self-conceit. All such boasting is wrong. (AMP)
 - 6. The 5 foolish virgins represent those who busy themselves with "more pressing duties".

II. PARTICIPATION OR LACK THEREOF (verses 5-9)

- A. They all slumbered or slept. This is not sinful. (vs. 5) Watching does not involve sleepless anxiety and constant concern for the future.
- B. Midnight simply implies that His return will be at an unexpected hour.
- C. Our lights will be expected to be full blaze but lamps with out fuel are hopeless to light when trimmed.
- D. The denial to give fuel to the foolish virgins is:
 - a. Reasonable, typical of these far-sighted prudent virgins that got them into this very position.
 - b. Realistic. Theirs is not grudging selfishness that is unwilling to share its bounty, but a clear-eyed realism that understood their responsibility to the groom.
 - c. Right, because the foolish girls requested that which they had no claim.
 - 1. How can anyone transfer to anyone else his own deeply felt enthusiasm, his own profound convictions, his loving determination, or that hard earned experience or his painfully acquired knowledge that cost him much time to acquire? How can anyone impart to another his own maturity or character, or that personal relationship with God that grows out of frequent fellowship with Him? These can be had only by personal acquisition, "*go buy for yourselves*". {*Harold Fowler*}

III. PREVENTION (verse 10-11)

- A. While they went... the bridegroom came.
- B. What a terrible finality rings in the words: "And the door was shut."
 - a. **Rev 3:7** "... who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says this."

IV. PRONOUNCEMENT (verses 12-13)

- A. They cared too little to surrender precious preparation to Him.