

# **PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS**

(07/23/2023; Wednesday Gathering; Matthew 25:1-13; Richie Pendred; Christ Proclamation Church)

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**Sermon Theme:** The Lord Jesus likens Himself to a bridegroom who will return in glory. We don't know the time or the hour, but are we ready? True believers must be prepared for His return with great watchfulness and devotion in every season and circumstance.

## **I. Context of the Parable – Read Matthew 24:1-51; 25:1**

- A. Read Matthew 24:1-3. What question do the disciples ask Jesus to set up the parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13?
- B. In Matthew 24:36-25:13, Jesus tells three parables. What are they, and what is the upshot of all three? What do they tell us about the Future Kingdom of Heaven?
- C. Read Matthew 25:1. How does this introductory sentence clue the reader in on the assurance of a true and lasting Kingdom to come?

## **II. Content of the Parable – Read Matthew 25:1-12**

- A. As you read the parable, who are the main characters? What is the great problem that Jesus addresses? What is the climax of the narrative?
- B. Read Matthew 25:12. What are your reactions to the bridegroom's strong response to the five foolish virgins? How does verse 12 relate to Matthew 7:21-23?
- C. In what ways do the five foolish virgins depict nominalism? Why is there such a staggering warning to those who have the appearance of faith, but with a lack of fruitfulness in their lives?

## **III. Purpose of the Parable – Read Matthew 25:13**

- A. According to Jesus, what is the main point of the parable of the ten virgins? With Matthew 7:21-23 and Titus 2:11-13 in mind, what does preparation for Christ's return look like?
- B. What are some of the reasons that we may not be prepared for Jesus' return? What tempts you to lose sight of the imminent return of Christ?
- C. How would you like to grow in faithfulness to Christ as we await His return? How might our church grow collectively as we aim to be attentive and obedient?