

# THE FATE OF THE UNPREPARED

Matthew 25:1-15

**INTRODUCTION:** This parable of Jesus focuses on His return. There are different interpretations applied to these verses. Some believe it is about His return at the rapture for His bride the church. Others believe it is His return to set up His Millennial Kingdom at the end of Tribulation. Regardless of which interpretation is correct, this parable is about Christ's return at some unknown hour and the need for His people to be ready. Are you among the wise or the foolish in this parable?

## I. FOOLISHNESS OF THE FIVE VIRGINS

### A. It is foolish to know about Jesus and not be saved.

These five foolish bridesmaids received the invitation to be in the wedding. They knew the bridegroom and the bride. They knew that the groom would come unexpectedly for his bride. It was dark, and they needed their lamps. They took their lamps, but they foolishly took no extra oil. The bridegroom delayed his coming and the five foolish virgins' lamps ran out of oil. In this parable, the groom is Christ and the virgins are professing Christians.

### B. It is foolish to know that Jesus is coming and not be prepared.

These foolish maidens knew the bridegroom was coming. In biblical times, the bridegroom would come to take his bride to the home that he had prepared for him and his bride. It was late and the ten virgins had fallen asleep because the bridegroom's coming was late. The problem was not with them going to sleep, but it was the failure of the five foolish virgins for not being prepared. We read in Matthew 25:6, "And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him." In biblical times, the bride-maids were with the bride. When they heard the bridegroom was coming, they went out to meet the groom. They would trim their lamps and be led into the house where the wedding celebration would begin.

Matthew 25:8-10 states: "And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 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. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut."

We need to remind ourselves that salvation cannot be purchased nor can it be received from someone else. A sinner has to personally receive Christ as his Savior by faith. Because the wise virgins were ready, they went in with the bridegroom to the marriage. All this took place while the foolish virgins had gone to buy oil for their lamps. Jesus' words in Matthew 24:44 are a warning to us today. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Like these foolish virgins, many today are not prepared. They have heard the preaching of the gospel. They know Jesus is the only Savior and Sovereign Lord. They have witnessed the change in the lives of their family and friends who are saved.

At some point, every person will face Jesus either in death or at His coming. Regardless, it is essential to be ready and waiting for His appearance. Countless people believe and know in their hearts that Jesus is coming. Still, they are not prepared. They are like the foolish virgins. They know they are lost and need to be saved. The five foolish virgins gave the appearance of being ready like the five wise virgins. They all had their lamps in their hands. The lamps of the five foolish virgins could give no light because they had no oil in them. Jesus said in Luke 11:35, "Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness." It is foolish to know about Jesus and not be saved. It is foolish to know that Jesus is coming and not be prepared.

### C. It is foolish to wait until it is too late.

These foolish virgins were not prepared, and they waited too late to get ready. Upon their return from buying oil, these foolish virgins found the door shut. They began to say, "Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

Jesus is the door of salvation. (John 10:7) Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep." Jesus offers saving grace to anyone in need of being saved. However, God's grace does come to an end. Proverbs 29:1 states: "He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." The Bible says in Titus 2:11, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." The foolish virgins represent professing Christians who have never been born-again. They can be part of a church and confess to knowing Christ and yet have never experienced the new birth.

A man pulls up to a stop light. He notices smoke coming out from around the hood of his car. The man sees a filling station just on the other side of the stop light. He continues to sit in his car when he sees flames coming out from around the hood while the smoke continues to get worse. Just about the same time the smoke and flames start to come out around the dashboard. He finally realizes he needs to get out of the car. At about that time, a car slams into the back of his car. He tries to open the door to get out. The door is jammed and will not open. Suddenly, his car explodes into flames. It is too late! In the blink of an eye, the man is in eternity facing the Lord Jesus. He failed to get out when he first saw the smoke and fire.

Jesus told the parable of the foolish man who built his house on the sand and when "the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." (Matthew 7:27)

In Luke 12:16-21, Jesus told of the man who pulled down his barns and built greater ones. He said to his soul, "thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." But God said unto him, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." The Father's will is for sinners to believe on His Son, Jesus Christ.

In Matthew 7:21, Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Jesus spoke the most frightful words in the Bible in Matthew 7:23, "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." This does not mean Jesus does not know them. It means that He does not know them as His own. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 2:19, "The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity." It is foolish to know about Jesus and not be saved. It is foolish to know that Jesus is coming and not be prepared. It is foolish to wait until it is too late.

## **II. FAITHFULNESS OF THE FIVE VIRGINS.**

### **A. The five wise virgins represent true believers and followers of Jesus Christ.**

They received their invitation with gladness. They willingly served as bridesmaids. These wise virgins had faith. Their faith was evident in their readiness and faithfulness to the bride and bridegroom. The Bible teaches a person is not saved by good works, but when saved, he is "created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

### **B. They were prepared for the bridegroom's appearance.**

These five virgins were ready for the bridegroom's coming regardless of when he came. These five maidens had brought along extra oil. Oil is used in the Bible as a symbol of the Holy Spirit. People who are truly born again have the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Bible makes it clear if a person does not have the Holy Spirit then he is not saved. Romans 8:9 states: "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

### **C. They were ready and went in with the bridegroom.**

True believers are looking for the return of Jesus Christ. Since these five wise virgins were ready for the bridegroom's appearing, they went in with him to the wedding celebration. When Jesus comes again for His own, those who are His will be with Him in heaven. The bridegroom is Jesus and the wise virgins are saved people.

## **LESSONS FOR LIFE:**

### **1. We are to be watching and ready to meet the Lord at His coming.**

2. We do not know the day of the Lord's coming.
3. Those who are unprepared will find the door of grace closed.
4. Those who are saved and prepared will find the door of grace open wide.
5. Will those pearly gates be opened for you?