

Matthew 25:1-13

- 1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise.
- **3** The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. **4** The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. **5** The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.
- 6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'
- **7** "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. **8** The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'
- **9** "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'
- 10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.
- 11 "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'
- 12 "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'
- 13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour...

The Context

Isaiah 62:5 As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a **bride**groom rejoices over his **bride**, so will your God rejoice over you.

Matthew 24:45

"Who then is the faithful and wise servant...?"

The Conversation

How's your heart?

Drowsy? Asleep?

The Conflict

Unprepared

God invites and invites and invites...

How often do we respond?

Prodigality and Perfectionism BOTH get in the way

Sin management

Prodigality and Perfectionism BOTH get in the way

Sin eradication

Galatians 5:1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

King Jesus, live in me;

King Jesus, guide me.

I will to will the will of God.

A CONFEDERATE SOLDIER'S PRAYER

- L: I asked God for strength, that I might achieve;
- P: I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
- L: I asked for health, that I might do greater things;
- P: I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
- L: I asked for riches, that I might be happy;
- P:I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
- L: I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men;
- P: I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
- L: I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life; P: I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
- L: I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I hoped for.
- P: Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
- All: I am among all men most richly blessed.

