

Benediction

Hymn C.W. 321 / TLH 47

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 25:1-2, 13

Vs. 1 – At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Vs. 2 – Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

Vs. 13 – Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

GREETING: Grace and peace to you from Him Who Is, and Who Was, and Who Is to come!

- Αμην λεγω υμιν, ουκ οιδα υμας -

These Greek words are translated as: **“Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.”** (Matt. 25:12)

Can there be any words that bring more terror to the human heart than these?

These are the words of our Lord and Savior, our God and Creator, our Lord Jesus on the Last Day, on Judgment Day – to those who are outside of the Kingdom of heaven.

These are the words of our Lord Jesus on Judgment Day to those who will be spending FOREVER - in Hell.

These are the Words of our Lord Jesus Christ on Judgment Day, to those, who of their own accord, their own fault, were not prepared for His 2nd Coming.

Do you know someone who is not prepared for Christ’s 2nd coming?

How does it make you feel?

Does it bring tears to your heart, and perhaps even to your eyes as you think of the times that you have tried to express the importance of Christ Jesus, to that person who you know who has blown you off and the Word of God which you spoke to them?

At the time of Noah, everyone else in the world was not heeding the warnings of Noah as he built the ark.

The World Wide flood / Deluge at the time of Noah, was / is a foreshadowing of Judgment Day.

In **Genesis 7:13** and following verses we are told: **“On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons entered the ark. ... Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. The animals going in where male and female of every living thing as God had commanded Noah. THEN The LORD SHUT him in. ... Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.”**

Noah and his family and all the animals inside the ark were saved. All those who were outside, died.

Today in this section of Scripture, the Lord Jesus tells the parable referred to as ‘*The Ten Virgins*’.

(Parable = an earthly story with a heavenly meaning).

In this parable, Jesus is giving a warning to us and to all people to be prepared for the Last Day / Judgment Day.

The picture language that Jesus uses is 10 virgins who were waiting for the Bridegroom to take his bride to the Wedding Banquet. The Bridegroom is a long time in coming.

But when he does come, the cry goes out: “**Here is the Bridegroom!**”

The Ten Virgins then trim their lamps to light the way for the Bride, but five of the ten, quickly realize that they do not have enough oil. {There is a debate as to whether the lamps were of the nature of a torch, such as a stick wrapped with cloth and dipped into olive oil, or if they are lamps that were made of clay in the shape of a small bowl like vessel with a short spout, with a wick material coming up from the Olive oil. Either way, these virgins were awaiting the arrival of THE BRIDEGROOM.}

The five foolish virgins try to borrow some oil from the wise virgins, but the wise virgins are wise enough to know that if they give some of their oil to the foolish virgins, that there will not be enough oil to last.

{We cannot borrow faith from someone else such as a parent, or uncle or relative who is a Pastor. We are only saved by Christ alone!}

So, the five wise virgins tell the five foolish virgins to go and buy some more oil.

Of course, it is the middle of the night (Midnight). Where will they be able to find a place to buy oil?

The five foolish virgins have no choice but to go off to try to find some oil to buy.

During the time that the five foolish virgins are off trying to buy oil, the Bridegroom arrives and the Groom and his Bride enter the Wedding Banquet. “**And the door was shut.**” (Matthew 25:10)

Today we are celebrating the 3rd Sunday of End Time – SAINTS TRIUMPHANT!

The believers in Christ Jesus are inside, they are in Heaven, they are safe, they are – SAINTS TRIUMPHANT!

In this parable of Jesus, the Bridegroom is Jesus at His 2nd coming.

The five FOOLISH virgins are those people who are not prepared for the 2nd Coming of the Lord Jesus.

The five WISE virgins are those people who are waiting, watching, and anticipating the 2nd Coming of the Lord Jesus.

Are you Wise or foolish? No one of course wants to be called foolish?

Ps 14:1 & Ps. 53:1 – “**The fool says in his heart, there is no God.**”

Are you keeping your lamp of faith burning? “**Let your light shine.**” (Matthew 5:14-16)

Are you nurturing your faith with the Oil of God’s Word and regular attendance at the Lord’s Supper, or are you letting your faith go out by neglect of the Word of God and His Sacrament of Holy Communion?

God in His grace has brought us to faith in Jesus and made us wise unto salvation. (II Tim. 3:15)

True wisdom comes from the Lord? (Psalm 111:10, Prov. 1:7, Prov. 9:10)

Every Parable has One Main Point.

The main point of this Parable is given in **Verse 13 – “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day of the hour.”**

No one knows the Day of Judgment, not even the angels. (Matt. 24:36)

Even Jesus says He does not know, as He speaks in His state of humiliation. He hides it from Himself.

With this parable Jesus is warning His Disciples. Jesus is warning us.

The first time Jesus came, He came as a Humble Servant, to die on the Cross for all our sins. Whether people believe it or not, Jesus is coming for the Second Time in all His Glory, to Judge all mankind. Are you ready for Christ's second coming? AMEN

THEME: Do you consider yourself wise or foolish?

Vs. 1 - At that time, the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Vs. 2 - Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

Vs. 3 - The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

(On the outside, the Foolish and Wise Virgins look the same, both groups had lamps, but the foolish had no oil, no substance to their faith)

Vs. 4 - The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.

Vs. 5 - The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

Vs. 6 – At midnight, the cry rang out: Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet Him!

Vs. 7 – Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. - -λαμπαδας -

Vs. 8 – The foolish ones said to the wise, Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.

Vs. 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.

Vs. 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.**

Vs. 11 - “Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’”

Vs. 12 - “But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don't know you.’”

Vs. 13 - **“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”**