



Good Shepherd
Sermon-Based Study Guide

Matthew 25: 1 - 13 | July 5th, 2026

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I. Introduction to this Study

The parable we are diving into this Sunday is the parable of the "Ten Virgins." This parable reminds us of one of Jesus' earlier sermons in his ministry, the Sermon on the Mount, when he states, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

Jesus paints the picture of a marriage feast where there are 10 bridesmaids who await his coming. 5 are wise and 5 are foolish. The wise virgins live their lives with an expectancy of his return. The parable highlights how the wise virgins are spiritually ready for his return.

As we dive into this parable this week, may the Holy Spirit reveal to us our spiritual blindness to the areas in our lives where he have not allowed him to be Lord.

II. Connecting with One Another (Ice Breaker)

When is the last time you did something that was outside your comfort zone?

III. Study the Text

Read **Matthew 24-25**

- What is the main topic of focus in this last discourse in Matthew?
- What parables are included in these 2 chapters?
- What parables lead into the parable of the 10 Virgins?

Read **Matthew 25:1-13**

- Write down the points of reference in this parable? (Who are the 3 main characters and who do they represent?)
- When you read this parable, what emotions arise within you?

Read **Matthew 25:1-9**

- What differentiates the wise virgins from the foolish virgins?
- What attributes or characteristics would describe the wise virgins?



Read **Matthew 25:10-11**

- How has the parable shifted in these two verses?
- What is Jesus now addressing with his disciples?

Read **Matthew 25:11-13**

- Refer back to Matthew 7:21-23.
- How does Jesus describe discipleship?
- What attribute of discipleship is Jesus emphasizing in this parable? (In other words, what does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ according to this parable?)
- What does it mean that Jesus doesn't know them?
- Where is the hypocrisy with the foolish virgins in this parable?

IV. Application

The distinguishing factor between the wise and foolish virgins is their preparedness for Christ's return. Those who are disciples of Jesus Christ live their lives with as people who are awake spiritually. Like we read earlier, both groups fell literally asleep, yet only the wise virgins were ready for the bridegroom to come, even amidst his perceived delay, while the foolish virgins were caught off-guard. The foolish virgins called Jesus, "Lord," yet they were spiritually asleep to the coming of their, "Lord." Although they proclaimed the Lordship of Christ with their mouths, their actions did not reflect their proclamation.

- What does it mean for Jesus to be Lord?
- What areas in your life do you see a duality between what you believe and how you live?
- Does the imminent return of Christ affect the way you make decisions?
- Where do you see an invitation from the Holy Spirit to grow in living aware of his coming?
- How is the truth of Jesus' return good news for us today? For our world? For your life?
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V. Prayer

Spend time in prayer together:

- Sit with your Lord for 10 minutes and just be silent in His presence. Surrender what's on your mind at his feet. Allow what's on your mind to come up and give it to Him. Instead of trying to solve it and fix it, surrender it.
- Then, take a moment and ask your Heavenly Father, "Lord, how have I avoided the truth of Your imminent return? What decisions have I been making that have not reflected this truth?"
- Pray for boldness to be step into where God is leading you in light of this parable.
- How can you be praying through your upcoming decisions in life in light of Jesus' imminent return?

