

**Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)**

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. <sup>4</sup> The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup> “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

<sup>7</sup> “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

<sup>9</sup> “‘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.’

<sup>10</sup> “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.

<sup>11</sup> “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

<sup>12</sup> “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

<sup>13</sup> “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

**Sermon for November 12, 2023:** [www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online](http://www.collegechurch.org/college-church-online)

**KNOW ...** *God and his Word.*

- The parable of the ten virgins has something to tell us about the kingdom of heaven. Name what each of the following represents in the story: the bridegroom, the wise virgins, the foolish virgins, wedding banquet.
- The parable described the virgins as *wise* and *foolish*. What is the difference between the two groups?
- When the bridegroom arrived, the foolish virgins ask the wise virgins to share their oil. Why would they ask such a thing? What did the oil represent? Speculate a bit — what things might have created the need for the foolish virgins to ask for help? Discuss the wise virgins’ response.
- Once the bridegroom arrives, the wise, prepared virgins went in to the wedding banquet. When the foolish virgins came back, the door was shut and they called out to be let in. What reply did they receive? Discuss what reality this reply from the parable points to for us today and how that makes you feel.

- Jesus told this parable to shape the lives of his disciples by helping them understand about his return. What key things about his return did Jesus want them to know?
- What stood out to you in this passage or from Pastor Mark's sermon? Discuss any additional insights, thoughts or questions you may have.

**ACT** ... *responding to & applying what we know.*

- Are you *looking, longing* and *faithfully waiting* for the Lord's return or have you become accustomed to Christ's absence and perhaps stopped waiting? Name some ways Christ's disciples can actively, expectantly, longingly and faithfully wait and be ready for his return. (See *1 Thessalonians 4:1-12* for some ideas and to stir your thinking.)
- Pastor Mark asked us Sunday morning, "So, are you ready for the Lord's return?" And as he stated, there are several ways to answer: 1) definitive YES, 2) yes with some hesitation or reticence, 3) unsure but hope so, 4) need a little more time, 5) no, or 6) yes, but wish he would wait.

How would you answer today? Why? Was there a time in your life you would have answered differently? If yes, what circumstance or thinking prompted that answer?

- Do you know someone who is unaware, uninterested or unprepared for Christ's return? Share their first name(s) with your LCC group members. Make time to pray for them together.

**BE** ... *living in light of what we've heard, becoming more like Christ.*

Revelation 21:3-4 (NIV) tells us what Christ's bride can expect once our bridegroom has come and the fullness of God's kingdom and his reign arrives:

"Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death'<sup>[a]</sup> or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

IMAGINE it! God will dwell with us and death, mourning, crying and pain will be NO MORE!

Take time this week to IMAGINE Christ's return and GIVE THANKS. As you wait for that day to come, BE FAITHFUL, PREPARE and KEEP becoming more like Jesus ... no matter how long it may take for him to arrive.

Grace and peace,  
*Pastor Angela*

**Rev. Angela Alvarado**

Discipleship Pastor

College Church of the Nazarene University Avenue

[aalvarado@collegechurch.org](mailto:aalvarado@collegechurch.org)