

THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS | MATT. 25:1-13

I. THE DISCOVERY OF JESUS PREPARES US FOR OUR WEDDING.

A. Today's main point: **We weren't created to be somebody, but to know someone.**

1. Our purpose in this life isn't to discover ourselves, but to discover Jesus, and in the discovery of Jesus, we find ourselves as He intended.
2. Being prepared for Jesus' return has nothing to do with how much food is in your basement **but how much love is in your heart.**
3. The **only success that matters in this life** is a heart filled with love for Jesus.

B. Our question: **What is the primary pursuit of our heart?**

II. OVERVIEW OF OUR PARABLE

A. The thrust of Jesus' point here comes from the content in the previous chapter, specifically 24:13 **"But the one who endures to the end will be saved."**

1. Jesus in talking to his disciples on the mount of olives and answering their questions about His second coming. After going into detail, He tells a sequence of 4 parables all specifically **related to the topic of His return.**

B. The scene of this parable can seem odd, to us in our time and culture. However this was a very normal scene in Jewish culture.

1. *Read the modern account from J. Alexander Findley.*

C. **We have 10 virgins. 5 wise 5 foolish**

1. There is a delay in the bridegroom coming.
2. They all grow weary and fall asleep. Meaning, all go about there normal everyday things. The fact that the wise fall asleep means that the charge to "watch therefore" isn't because you'll miss it. **This parable is about always being prepared, not always watching. No one will miss his return.**

D. The peril of those not ready is that **they are left out** with the Bridegroom (Jesus) saying **"I do not know you"**. This is the great loss they receive.

1. **"Many will come to me in that day (of his coming) and I will profess unto them 'I never knew you' depart from me you evildoers"** Matt 7:23

E. Jesus' solution to this peril, **is to watch.** So, we need to look at what it means to **"Watch"**.

1. Many times throughout the Gospel's Jesus warns us to be "watchful".

III. DISCOVERING JESUS: HOW WE “WATCH AND WAIT”

- A. We have to look at the context of this story: it's **a giant party** / feast that traditionally lasted for **7 straight days** and nights. This is a joy filled occasion. The ones prepared are prepared because **they can't wait!**
1. This helps us with what it means to be “Watchful”. The command of the church for years was to watch sternly. Deprive yourself of everything in this life and keep your religious observances. NO.
 2. We watch like a groom watches the double doors at the back of the church. Watching is anticipating. It's doing everything we can to discover this one who is coming BECAUSE we are so excited He is coming.
 - a. Watching = Discover
- B. **How 3 ways we watch:**
1. **We watch individually.** The foolish virgins couldn't just hang around the wise virgins and that be enough. You need to know Jesus for your self. You need to meet with Him on your own. Know the Word for yourself to be ready.
 - a. Having a good pastor, good church, friends who are Christians isn't enough. Jesus wants to be close to you. In fact Jesus demands it.
 2. **We watch in nearness. Prayer and His word.** If the love of your life was coming and you are waiting in anticipation for them to come, and the only thing you had was a collection of love letters they wrote to you, wouldn't you spend all the in between time reading those letters and talking to the person on the phone? What is when you talked to them on the phone you also felt their nearness?
 - a. Prayer is the act of drawing near to Jesus. Getting as close to Him as possible.
 - b. God's Word are the love letters that we pour over and over and over to know Him, to love Him, to understand Him even if that wont all fully makes sense till He comes, and when He does we'll have all those questions from all those letters to talk with Him about.
 3. **We watch in sobriety and fidelity.** Jesus tells us to be “watchful” in Luke 21, and to not be drunk. He means drunk on the cares and causes of this world.
 - a. **Sobriety:** We live awake to the hope and promise of Christ.
 - b. **Fidelity:** We make our loves and appetites His. Our delight in Him.

IV. WHAT IS THE PRIMARY PURSUIT OF OUR HEART?

- A. Are we trying to become someone? Or are we trying to know someone?