



**Matthew 25:1-13**  
**New International Version**

**The Parable of the Ten Virgins**

**25** “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.

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” C.S. Lewis

“We are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10



# Sermon Notes

## PARABLES: GLIMPSSES OF A NEW REALITY

The Parable asks “**Will You Be Ready?**”

“Make sure that you don’t get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing!” Romans 13:11-12 (Msg)

**Both were expecting the Bridegroom**

**Both knew what was expected of them**

**Both were tested by time and circumstances**

Oil is the source of the light, it is **DESIRE** converted into action, it is **WISDOM** from truth, and **CONFIDENCE** from experience. It is **FAITH** in Christ.

**Why would anyone run out of oil?**

**Oil is COSTLY**

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” Luke 9:23

**Oil is CONSUMED**

“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved” Matt 24:12-13

**Oil is COMMON –taken for granted**

“What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?” Matt. 16:26

# LIVING WORD

*“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.*

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. **Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.**” Phil 4:6-8 (NLT)*

- i. In the midst of changing times what does he say they should do to refocus their energy?
- ii. In our prayers what **two things** does he tell us to do?
- iii. What does he say we should fix our minds on?

Fixing our minds on good things helps us not to worry, especially if a situation doesn’t seem to be out the way we imagined. And its then that we learn how to have patience: can you think of a situation in your life which isn’t going right? Given what you have learnt here, what might God want you to do?

Ask God to give you patience in difficult situation and to help you keep your mind fixed on Jesus so you have peace. *You might like to use this prayer:*

Father, please come and help me with \_\_\_\_\_ thank you that you are always with me and ready to helping me by your Holy Spirit. Please help me to keep my thoughts on good things, not distracted by evil. In Jesus name **Amen**

## **Find a purpose to serve, not a lifestyle to regret.**

“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?”

Luke 14:28

Costly Grace

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ living and incarnate. Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy which the merchant will sell all he his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble, it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him. Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

Leslie Newbegin said, *“The church is to mission as fire is to burning.”* Without fire there can be no burning. Without mission there can be no church, or to put it another way, a church that doesn’t exist to do mission is little more than a parody of a Christian community.