

The Foolish Five

Matthew 25:1-13

I. Background Information

Mt.24

- Tuesday – prophecies –
 - Destruction of Jerusalem
 - Final Coming and Judgment

The only uncertainty: would the disciples remain faithful?

Aid to faithfulness: parables

Unexpectedness
of His coming:
Mt.24:42-44

Active, obedient
watchfulness:
Mt.24:45-51

Prepare for
long delay:
Mt.25:1-13

Three stages in typical Jewish wedding

Engagement

(agreement
by fathers)

Betrothal

(mutual
promises)

Marriage

(usually one
year later)

4: The wise were prepared

Ep.6¹⁵ ...having shod your feet with the
preparation of the gospel of peace

8-9:

We cannot borrow the preparation of others

This is spiritual preparation, not golden rule

We can share benevolence,
not righteousness

I. Background Information

II. The Virgins Are Alike

Looks

Learning

Labor

Longing

Location

Lingering

I. Background Information

II. The Virgins Are Alike

**III. Foolish Virgins Are
Unlike Other Sinners**

They are not . . .

Idolaters
Mt.19

Indifferent
Mt.22:5-6

Insincere
Mt.22:15-18

Ignorant
Mt.22:23...29

Inaccessible
Mt.23:13, 37

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II. The Virgins Are Alike

III. Foolish Virgins Are Unlike Other Sinners

**IV. Foolish Virgins Are
Like Those Who . . .**

1. In church, but forget what they hear.

James 1

2. Know what to do but don't do it. **Ezk.33**

3. Moral, but do not serve God. **RYR**

4. Sentimental, but unwilling to serve or to sacrifice. **Mt.25:18**

5. Eager for a while, but don't last. **2 Tim.4:3**

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IV. Foolish Virgins Are Like Those Who Are...

**V. What Does All
This Mean To Me?**

1. Bridegroom is Christ (1) (9:15)

- Virgins are Christians awaiting His coming

2. Prepare for a delay (2-5)

- Keep watching. Had He returned quickly, even the foolish would have been ready.
- Mt.24:48; 25:19

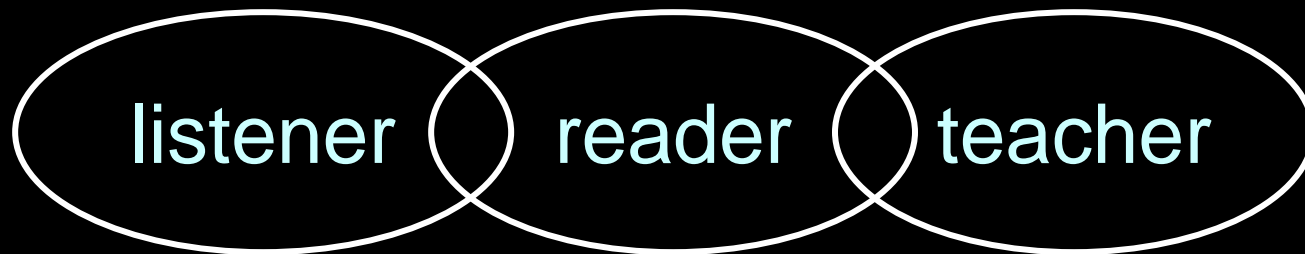
How to prepare?

Pray. Study. Attend. Serve...

- Am I determined to stay faithful to the end? Ep.6:15

3. We can make some preparation and still be lost (7)

- All the labor of foolish virgins was lost
- It is vain to be a regular . . .



- ...if we do not live in view of His coming
- Preparation is ultimately an individual matter

Our life is one continual
preparation for eternity

4. We cannot be saved by the goodness of others (8-9)

- The wise could not share oil any more than we can share our obedience
- We cannot borrow righteousness
 - Ex.32:32-33
 - Ro.9:1-3

Catholicism: Purgatory...

Every soul is accepted for himself, and cannot represent others in Judgment

- We must 'buy for ourselves' (9). Mt.6:20

5. Soon it will be too late to prepare (9-12)

- Five virgins are excluded, not because they are enemies of the groom – they have no relationship with Him (30, 41)

“They will see their need of grace hereafter, when it should save them, who will not see their need of grace now, when it should sanctify and rule them” – Henry

6. Watch for Him (13)

- Perseverance is the key
- Mt.26⁴¹ watch and pray...

Perseverance:

- Ability to look ahead and see what's coming (foresight)
- Steadiness, with patience, persistence, and courage

6. Watch for Him (13)

- Perseverance is the key
- Mt.25⁶ midnight...
 - Important events often come at the most...
 - Unexpected times.
 - Dangerous times.

We are just as strong
as our weakest moment



Conclusion (1)

“Short is life; fleeting is time;
quick is death; sure is judgment;
long is eternity.

Therefore, what thou desire to do,
do it quickly”

Conclusion (2)

True wisdom...

1 does not focus only on external equipment for the feast (**lamps**) and forget the essence (**oil**)

Without the lamp, the oil is wasted

Without the oil, the lamp will not burn

2 is always ready, constantly remembering the bridegroom's coming

Even the foolish made some preparation