

Be On the Alert!
The Parable of the Ten Virgins
Matthew 25:1-13

Introduction:

- Why would we risk our own safety? – if whatever we might gain is w_____ the risk.
 1. The seasonal flu – 650,000 people die every year from the seasonal flu according to the _____
 - a. What did you do to protect yourself in 2018?
 - b. Why did you go to events during flu season?
 2. Car accidents – In 2019, 38,800 people died and 4.4 million needed medical attention in the U.S. according to the _____.
 - a. What did you do to protect yourself from being a statistic?
 - b. Why did you drive out of town, knowing that you could get hurt or even die from a car accident?
- At the discovery of the Covid-19 pandemic, government put temporary restrictions in place and most Christians stopped going to church.
 1. Has this pandemic caused Christians to become l_____?
 2. Have Christians really m_____ coming together?
- Jesus told a parable urging believers to be on the a_____.
 1. How can we as a c_____ be on the alert?
 2. How can we as an i_____ Christian be on the alert?

The telling of the parable

- Jesus tells what the kingdom of heaven _____ be like.
 1. Before this, Jesus stated what it ___ like (e.g. *is like a mustard seed, leaven, a landowner* – Matt 13:31,33; 20:1)
 2. Jesus is talking about what it will be like when He returns (His return is the c_____ of this parable – 24:42-51).
 3. The kingdom of heaven will be like _____ virgins going to a wedding feast.
 - a. The kingdom of heaven is the same as the kingdom of _____ (compare Mk 1:15 to Matt 4:17).
 - b. The kingdom of heaven refers to the domain where God's king (_____) reigns effectively.

- c. When a person trusts Christ as their God and Savior, that person is t_____ to this kingdom (Col 1:13).

●The Jewish wedding

1. The couple was engaged for ___ year.
2. Then, the groom goes to the bride's home and brings her to his home where the wedding f_____ takes place.
3. The trek from home to home becomes a p_____ as family and friends follow.

●The 10 virgins go out and wait for the groom to begin his trek.

1. Five were w_____
 - a. They brought e_____ oil for their lamps
 - b. They fell a_____ waiting.
 - c. When the a_____ of the groom's coming was made, they woke up, lit their lamps, and joined the parade to the wedding feast.
2. Five were f_____
 - a. They brought lamps with whatever oil was in them.
 - b. They fell a_____ waiting.
 - c. When the announcement was made, they woke up, realized they needed more oil, went into the market to buy some, and m_____ the procession to the feast.
 - d. They go to the groom's home and _____ on the door, asking him to let them in.
 - e. The groom states that he did not _____ them (i.e. they were not his friends or family but s_____ to him).

●What will be different about God's kingdom at Christ's coming?

1. Salvation will be c_____.
2. Judgment will be c_____.

The point of the parable

●Do not speculate about what each detail means, such as:

1. The number of virgins
2. The meaning of the oil
3. Why all of them fell asleep

●Jesus tells us the point of this parable

1. The point is for those who claim to be f_____ of Christ
2. The point is to be on the a_____ because we do not know exactly when Jesus will return (v. 13).

The application of the parable

- If you knew that Jesus was coming next Sunday, what would you change?
- How to be on the alert as a church (a b_____ of believers) – Heb 10:24,25
 1. It requires us to g_____ together and to never abandon that. – *Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together.*
 2. It requires us to think hard about how to encourage one another to l_____ and do good w_____. – *consider how to stimulate one another to love and good works.*
 - a. The Greek word translated *consider* literally means *to think d_____* and pictures a person in deep thought.
 - b. The objects of our unselfish love are _____ and others.
 3. It requires us to interact with one another (before, after, and during a service, in a small group, etc). How might you interact with:
 - a. Someone who has lost a loved one?
 - b. Someone who shares that they have been wronged by another person?
 - c. Others during a worship service?
 4. It requires us to work together to bring about Christ's coming – *all the more as you see the day drawing near* (Remember Matt 24:14).
 - a. We motivate one another to be good w_____.
 - b. We pool our r_____ to advance the gospel to all the people groups throughout the world.
 - c. We p_____ for God to use us.
- How to be on the alert as an individual follower of Christ - if we are on the alert as a people gathered we will be on the alert as a people scattered.
 1. We each will be motivated to love God and others in our d_____ lives.
 2. We each will r_____ when we fail (We will not live perfectly but we will live effectively).
 3. People will see that we each love God and others.

Be on the alert, for you do not know when your Lord is coming!