

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mr. Dowling, Mr. Garner, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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## The Five Foolish Virgins

By Derek Long

Jesus speaks a parable in Matthew 25:1-13 illustrating the need to be prepared by telling about the actions of five wise and five foolish virgins. The parable goes as follows: "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is

coming” (NKJV). What are some important lessons we can learn from the five foolish virgins in this parable?

Not everyone will be prepared when the Lord comes again just like not all the virgins are ready when the bridegroom eventually arrived. The foolish virgins help us to see there will be those who will be lost on the day of judgment. Jesus taught many go down the broad path which leads to destruction and few travel the narrow way which leads to life (Matthew 7:13-14).

The foolish virgins were ready if the bridegroom came quickly but they were unprepared for the bridegroom to be delayed (Matthew 25:5). How many Christians would be ready for the Lord to return shortly after their baptism but as time goes on they become unprepared? How many people do not have the endurance required to wait on the Lord to return perhaps the rest of their lifetime (Hebrews 10:36-39)? It may be easy to remain faithful for a brief period of time but harder to remain faithful over the course of many years. The five foolish virgins remind us there will be people who at one time were ready for the bridegroom’s arrival who eventually fell away and were unprepared when he eventually came (2 Timothy 2:11-13).

The foolish virgins wanted the wise virgins to give them some of their oil (Matthew 25:8-9). Some people may have the mistaken notion that they will be able to make it to heaven based upon the preparation of someone else. A person may speak about how their mother, grandmother, or grandfather always prayed, read the Bible, attended church services, etc. Such may have been good things for their relative to do. However, the question they need to be concerned about is what are

they doing. Are they reading their Bible, praying, and being faithful in their service toward God? When the judgment day comes, we will not be judged on the basis of what someone else did but on the basis of what we did (Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10). As a side note: The Roman Catholic ideas of purgatory where a person can receive excess good works from some really pious person to get out of purgatory quicker is in violation of the teaching of this parable. One cannot get excess good works for someone else to help them prepare for the judgment.

The foolish virgins teach us the opportunity to make the necessary preparations is limited (Matthew 25:10-12). A point came where it was too late for them to go and buy some more oil for their lamps. A point in time will come for each of us when it will be too late to make any spiritual preparation for our Lord’s return (Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Death or the Lord’s return will result in the end of opportunities to make preparations for our eternal destiny. Let’s make sure we are doing what we need to do to enter before the door is shut (Matthew 25:10; Luke 13:22-30).

The foolish virgins teach us, “you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming” (Matthew 25:13, NKJV). Efforts to predict when Jesus will return are futile. Jesus said earlier, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, by My Father only” (Matthew 24:36, NKJV). In light of the fact we do not know when Jesus will return, we must be always watchful and prepared for His coming.