

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1 If Jesus came tonight, would you be ready to meet Him? What's your honest answer, and why?
- 2 Are you carrying a lamp without oil? In what areas of your spiritual life do you look okay on the outside but feel empty inside?
- 3 What "oil" do you think is missing in your relationship with God right now: prayer, intimacy, obedience, or something else?

WE DO LIFE TOGETHER!



SCAN QR

If you haven't been involved in a LIFE Group yet, send us a message thru Fb, and we will get you connected to a small group.

 www.facebook.com/wwcfcebu

CONTACT US

 (032) 254 8934
0916 276 1067
0942 174 4296

 www.wwcfcebu.org
 cebuwwcf@gmail.com

ADDRESS

369-L Juana Osmena Ext.,
Camputhaw, Cebu City 6000

SERVICES

Sundays
10AM

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SUNDAY WORD

06 • 22 • 2025

EYES TO SEE,
EARS TO HEAR
PART 7 - ARE YOU READY?

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 25:1-13

BACKGROUND CONTEXT

In ancient Jewish culture, weddings were major community celebrations. The groom, joined by close friends, would leave his home to visit the bride's house for pre-wedding ceremonies, followed by a joyful nighttime procession back to his house. The ten virgins in Jesus' parable were bridesmaids waiting to meet the groom along the way. Each person in the procession was expected to carry their own lamp, and anyone without one was considered an outsider or unwelcome intruder.

The wedding celebration could last several days and officially began at the groom's house. Guests carried torches or small oil lamps that needed constant refilling to keep burning. Without oil, the lamps were useless in the dark. Jesus used this imagery to describe the kingdom of heaven, warning that He will return, and not everyone who appears ready will be welcomed, only those truly prepared.

Jesus isn't just telling a sweet wedding story; He's giving us a warning. Those ten girls with their lamps show us that you can look ready on the outside, but still not be prepared in your heart.

I. Spiritual Readiness Is More Than Religious Appearance

All ten virgins were invited to the wedding. They all had lamps. They all looked the part. They were all dressed for the occasion. They were all in the right place. They all knew the groom was coming. But something was missing.

The five foolish virgins had no oil in their lamps. That may not sound like a big deal at first, but it made all the difference. The lamp, without oil, was just a shell. It looked right on the outside, but had no power to shine. The oil represents what's internal: our relationship with Jesus, the presence of the Holy Spirit, our daily walk, our obedience, and our heart.

This is what separates real faith from shallow religion. A person can go to church, serve in the ministry, say "Amen," post Bible verses, and still be empty inside. The real danger Jesus warns us about isn't being lost; it's looking ready on the outside while being empty on the inside. You can carry a lamp and still have no oil. You can look Christian and still miss intimacy with God.

This parable asks us to stop and look closely: Am I really living for Jesus, or am I just pretending? Is my spiritual life built on a real, daily connection with God, or am I living off of someone else's oil? Because in the end, you can't borrow someone else's relationship with Jesus.

"Salvation is personal." You can't borrow someone else's oil. You can't ride on your parents' faith, your pastor's fire, or your friend's convictions. At the end of the day, your walk with God has to be yours. The five foolish virgins had lamps, but no oil. They looked the part but lacked the substance.

This isn't just a call to self-check. It's also a warning about timing. There comes a time when what's inside of us, or what's missing from us, is exposed. When the trumpet sounds, when the skies split, when the moment of Jesus' return arrives, there won't be time to borrow oil or try to make things right. The midnight cry reveals what preparation, or lack of it, was done in the quiet.

II. You Can't Borrow Spiritual Depth When It's Too Late

Matthew 25:6 - "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' This was the moment they had all been waiting for. The call came not in the afternoon when it was easy to see. But the call came at midnight, when it was dark, when many were asleep, and when only those who had prepared in secret were ready in public. Suddenly, everything done in the quiet - the discipline, the surrender, and the devotion was brought into the light. And for some, it was too late.

Matthew 25:8 - "Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out." If you look at it, the wise virgins' response seems harsh: "These won't be enough. Go and buy some for yourselves." Honestly, that's not cruelty; it's the truth. Our relationship with God is born out of our desire to get to know Him deeper everyday. You can't manufacture your faith based on your pastor's faith. In the same way, you can't instantly have faith just because you come to church with your parents every Sunday, hang out with your leaders every week. When that day comes when you stand before Him, the only thing that will matter is what you have personally built with God.

Salvation is personal. Preparation is personal. Holiness is personal. You can't download someone else's spiritual life. You can't share convictions that weren't born in your own heart. You can't transfer intimacy with God; it's cultivated through your own time in His presence, through tears, repentance, worship, and obedience. No one else can do that for you.

Some of us keep saying, "I'll get serious with God later.", or "I'm just not ready yet." "I'll come back when I'm more settled, when I'm not so busy, when things calm down." But friend, that's exactly what the foolish virgins thought too. They assumed they had more time. But time ran out, and the door was shut.

"What are you putting off in your walk with God?" Is it forgiveness? Is it surrender? Is it prayer? Is it turning away from compromise? Is it obedience to something God's been asking of you? Is it the pleasure and materialism this world offers? The cry at midnight separates the prepared from the pretenders. It exposes whether we've been living awake or asleep. Don't be deceived by distraction. Don't be numbed by delay. Don't let busyness trick you into thinking you're spiritually alive when your lamp is actually running dry.

We are living in the midnight hour. The world is about to collapse. The signs are clear. Creation is groaning. The Lord is coming. And when He does, you won't have time to borrow oil. If you wait until the last moment to get ready for Christ's second coming, you may find the door already closed. Don't wait. Don't delay. Don't assume you'll have another chance. Get real with God now.

III. There Comes a Time When the Door Closes

One of the saddest lines in the Bible is in Matthew 25:10 "And the door was shut." For a while, the door to heaven was wide open. Everyone had a chance to come in. The invitation was given. God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness were available to anyone willing to receive them. The Bridegroom, who is Jesus Christ, hadn't come yet. So, there was still time to get ready.

But then came the moment of no return. The waiting was over. And the door that had once been open, full of opportunity and welcome, was suddenly shut. Not halfway shut but sealed and final.

Those who had wasted time, who had delayed preparation, came running. They were desperate and panicking. But it was too late. Matthew 25:11 says, "Lord, Lord, open the door for us!" But the response wasn't, "You almost made it." It was this: Matthew 25:12 - "Truly I tell you, I don't know you." Jesus didn't say, "You didn't go to church enough." He didn't say, "You didn't serve enough, pray enough, or try hard enough." He said something far more personal: "I don't know you."

This was never about performance. It was always about proximity. This has never been about religious activity; it's about real relationships. Not "What did you do for Me?" but "Did you walk with Me? Were you close? Did you know My voice?"

And that's what makes this parable so weighty. You can carry a lamp and still have no oil. You can look ready on the outside, but be empty on the inside. You can have the vocabulary of a believer, "Lord, Lord!", but lack the intimacy of one. You can be known by your church and still not be known by Christ. This is not to instill fear, but to stir urgency.

This parable isn't a gentle reminder. It's a spiritual alarm clock. It's a wake-up call for our generation. We are watching prophecy unfold before our very eyes. Wars and rumors of wars. Lawlessness increasing. Truth being exchanged for lies. Hearts growing cold. Natural disasters intensifying. People are distracted, entertained, and numbed. They don't care about the things of God anymore.

These things aren't random. They're reminders. Jesus said He's coming at an hour we do not expect. So the real question is not, "Are you trying to be a good person?" The real question is: Does He know you?

This isn't a call to be perfect; it's a call to be prepared. The Lord isn't asking for performance; He's longing for your heart. There is still time. But that time won't last forever. Come to Jesus while you still can. Let Jesus fill your life with real oil: the oil of real intimacy, faith, and surrender.