

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

**“The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins
who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.**

Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

**The foolish ones, when taking their lamps,
brought no oil with them,
but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.**

**Since the bridegroom was long delayed,
they all became drowsy and fell asleep.**

**At midnight, there was a cry,
‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’**

Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

**They foolish ones said to the wise,
‘Give us some of your oil,
for our lamps are going out.’**

**But the wise ones replied,
‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you.
Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’**

**While they went off to buy it,
the bridegroom came
and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.**

Then the door was locked.

**Afterwards the other virgins came and said,
‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’**

**But he said in reply,
‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’**

**Therefore, stay awake,
for you know neither the day nor the hour.”**

The gospel of the Lord.