

# **“The Bridegroom Cometh”**

Gary McDade

The welcome announcement of the coming of the bridegroom is the centerpiece of the parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. As with all parables, one central point is made and illustrated by the parable. Here it is preparedness, “...The bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut” v. 10. Found only here in the Bible, this unique parable makes an absolutely essential point for living a Christian life.

## **THE ANTICIPATION OF THE BRIDEGROOM**

“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom” v. 1.

## **THE ASSESSEMENT OF THE VIRGINS**

“And five of them were wise, and five were foolish” v. 2.

## **THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE VIRGINS**

“They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept” vv. 3-5.

## **THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE BRIDEGROOM**

“And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him” v. 6.

## **THE ACTIONS OF THE VIRGINS**

“Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps” v. 7.

## **THE ANXIETY OF THE FOOLISH VIRGINS**

“And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out” v. 8.

## **THE ANSWER OF THE WISE VIRGINS**

“But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves” v. 9.

## **THE ARRIVAL OF THE BRIDEGROOM**

“And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut” v. 10.

## **THE ANONYMITY OF THE FOOLISH VIRGINS**

“Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not” v. 11-12.

## **THE APPLICATION OF THE PARABLE**

“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” v. 13.

A great many years ago W.L. Watkinson in *The Christian World Pulpit* (January 18, 1905) expressed the following observations about what the dissipating oil from the Foolish Virgins’ lamps could represent, “It is ecclesiasticism without righteousness, morality without godliness, and enthusiasm without perseverance” (quoted in *The Interpreter’s Bible*, vol. VII, p. 556). Will our readiness for the return of the King of glory brighten the midnight sky with joy upon His return?