

# Year A - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Matthew 25:1-13

*Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.*



Jesus told his disciples this story about the kingdom of heaven:

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happened one night when ten girls took their oil lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. Five of the girls were foolish and five were wise.

The foolish ones took their lamps, but no extra oil. The ones who were wise took along extra oil for their lamps. "The groom was late arriving, and the girls became drowsy and fell asleep. Then in the middle of the night someone shouted, 'Here's the groom! Come to meet him!'

"When the girls got up and started getting their lamps ready, the foolish ones said to the others, 'Let us have some of your oil! Our lamps are going out.'

"The girls who were wise answered, 'There's not enough oil for all of us! Go and buy some for yourselves'.

"While the foolish girls were on their way to get some oil, the groom arrived. The girls who were ready went into the wedding, and the doors were closed.

Later the other girls returned and shouted, 'Sir, Sir! Open the door for us!'

"But the groom replied, 'I don't even know you!'

"So, my disciples, always be ready! You don't know the day or the time when all this will happen."



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## Matthew 25:1-13

Be Ready



- Introduction**
- This week Jesus tells us that we must always be ready for his return, even though no one knows when it will be.

- Message**
- As we come towards the end of the liturgical year, we are coming to the end of Jesus' public ministry in Matthew's gospel. Matthew uses this parable of the ten bridesmaids, which is only in this gospel, to focus on the importance of being prepared for Jesus' return in glory.
  - The ten bridesmaids were waiting to greet the bridegroom and show him the way to the wedding hall. However, the bridegroom was running very late and by the time he arrived their lamps had burned low. Five of them were prepared with extra oil, but five of them were not prepared and had to go and find more oil. By the time they returned, the bridegroom had come and gone with the five sensible bridesmaids.
  - We must live a life that prepares us for the return of Jesus.

- Discussion**
- Begin by checking with the children if there are any words or phrases that they don't understand, e.g. the role of the bridesmaids in Jesus' time. Also check if there are any words or phrases that stood out for them.
  - I wonder who/what the different parts in today's parable represent: bridegroom (Jesus); wedding feast (eternal life with God); sensible bridesmaids (those of us living a Godly life, preparing for eternal life); foolish bridesmaids (those of us living an unGodly life that will not lead us to eternal life); extra oil (being prepared).
  - What happened to the foolish bridesmaids?
  - I wonder how we can prepare ourselves for Jesus' return

