

STORIES

JESUS

TOLD

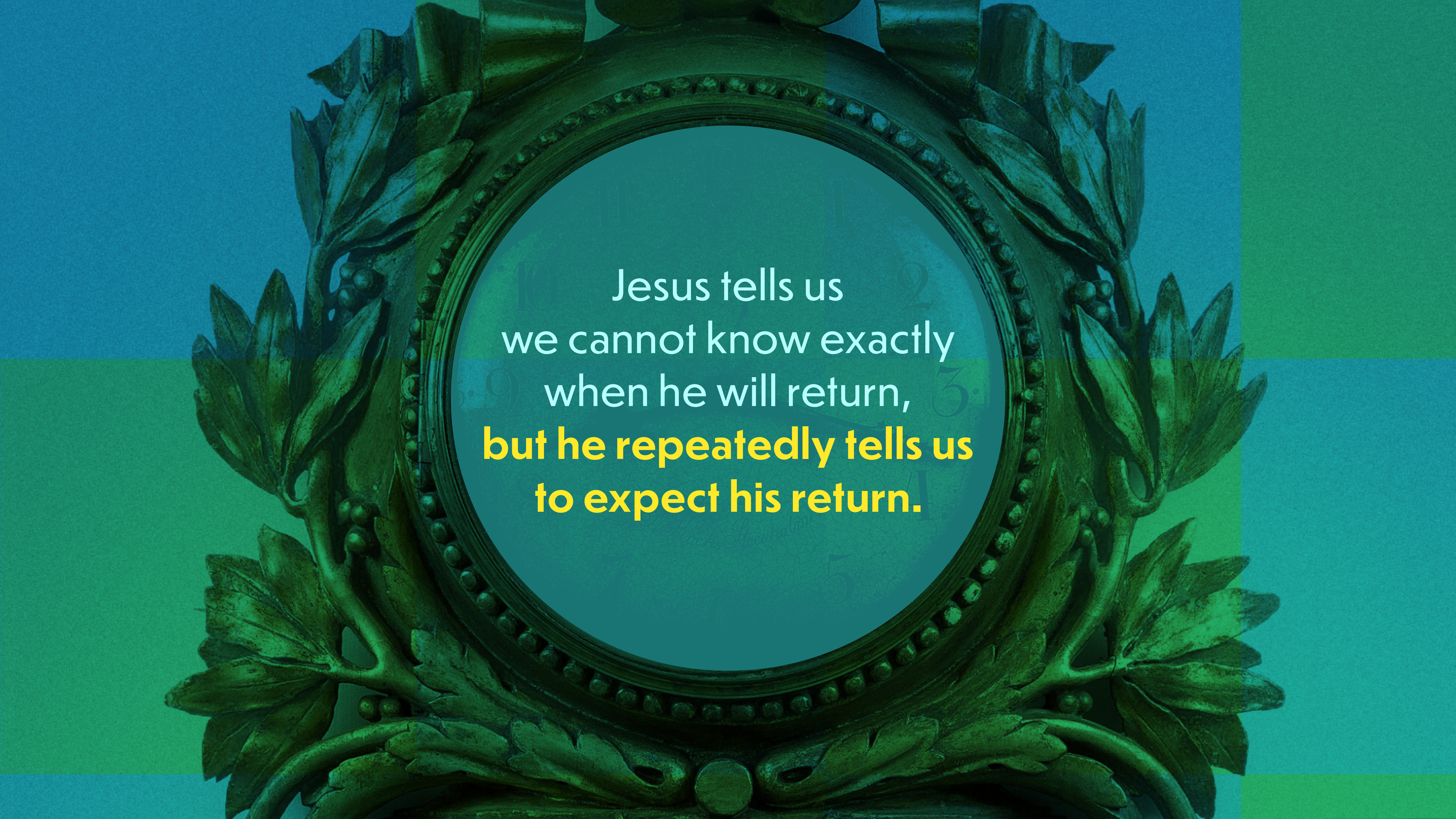


DO YOU BELIEVE JESUS IS COMING BACK SOON?

But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

MATTHEW 24:36





Jesus tells us
we cannot know exactly
when he will return,
**but he repeatedly tells us
to expect his return.**

MATTHEW 24

⁴² "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

MATTHEW 25



JEWISH WEDDINGS

PHASE 1

promise of marriage

organized by
fathers of the
groom and bride

PHASE 2

betrothal

- formal ceremony where vows were exchanged
- couple considered legally married (not living together yet)

PHASE 3

wedding feast

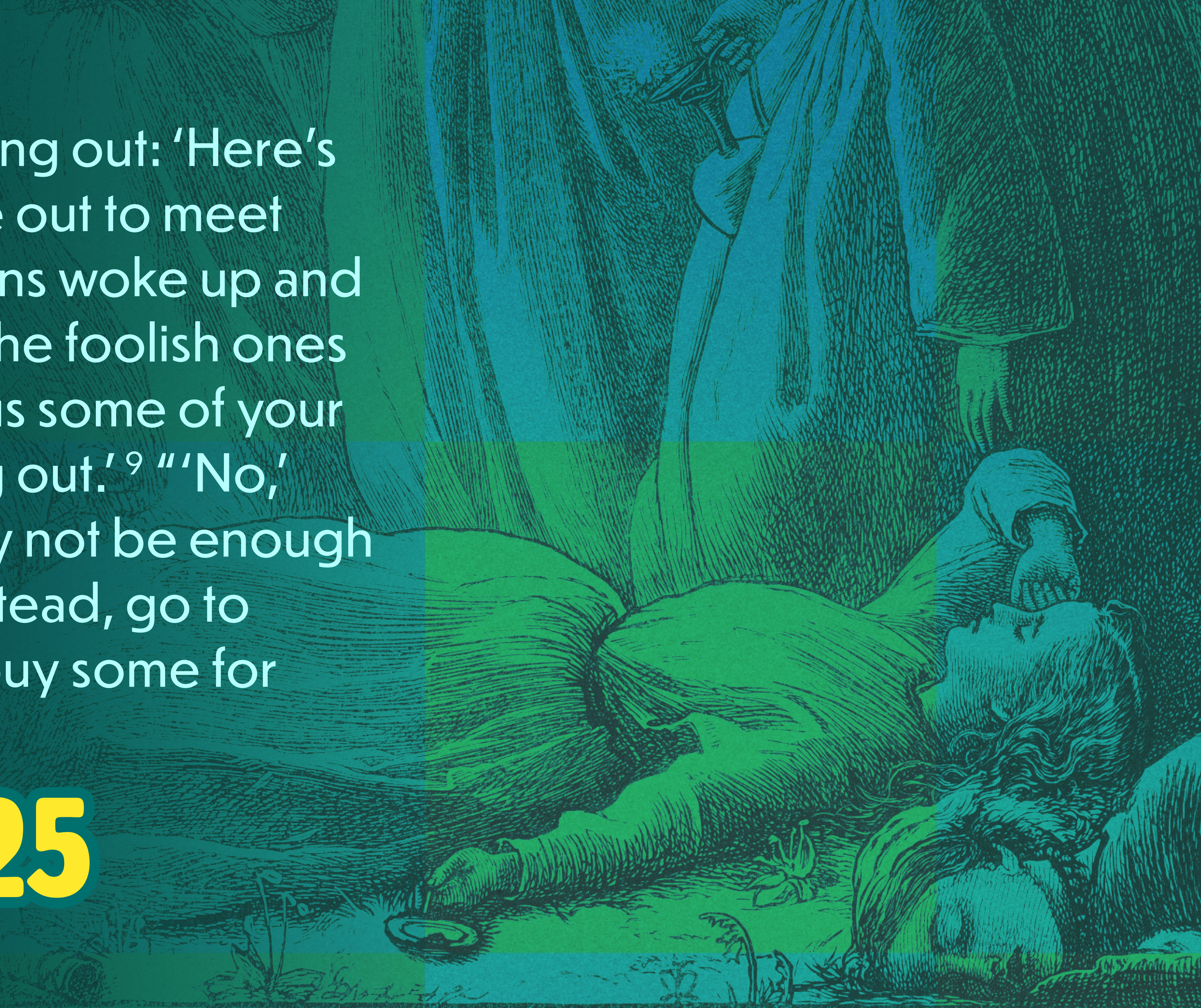
celebration might
last up to a week

The bridesmaid had the responsibility of escorting the bride and groom to the wedding feast



⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'" ⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'" ⁹ "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'"

MATTHEW 25





¹⁰ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

MATTHEW 25



¹¹ “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ ¹² “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

¹³ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

MATTHEW 25

you need a personal faith in Jesus
not a borrowed faith

A religious illustration of Jesus lying in a tomb, with a green and blue color overlay. The text "actively wait until the return of Jesus" is centered over the image, with "actively" circled in a yellow oval.

actively wait until the return of Jesus

actively wait with:

- **HOPE** *Titus 2:11-13*
- **ALERTNESS** *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*
- **PERSEVERANCE** *Hebrews 10:23-25, 35-39*
- **PATIENCE** *James 5:7-8*
- **ABIDING** *1 John 2:28-3:3*

responding with urgency

HAVE YOU PUT YOUR FAITH IN JESUS?

WHAT IS YOUR NEXT STEP OF OBEDIENCE?

ARE YOU HELPING OTHERS FIND AND FOLLOW JESUS?