



SUNDAY SERMON

RECAP

23 August 2026

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Sermon Notes

Sermon Title: When Midnight Comes

Pastor: John Roebert

Key Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

Introduction

According to Scripture, we are living in the last days. The New Testament uses the phrase "The last days" 5 times.

In Hebrews 1:1-2 we read, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

Acts 2:17 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams."

Is it the last of the last days? Are we living in the end times? We don't know for certain, but it is likely that we are living in the last era.

We should not try to determine exactly when Jesus will return. Don't get caught up when anyone gives dates. It is only the Father who knows.

Our responsibility is to be alert and ready. To be prepared. To discern the seasons.

Matthew 25:1-13 (NKJV) – "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5 But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6 "And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' 7 Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11 "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' 12 But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

This parable is part of three parables that belong together.

The parable of the faithful and unfaithful servant is just before this one. And the parable of the talents is just after. All three parables speak of the end times.

The parable of the ten virgins deals with one crucial aspect. **The importance of having spiritual life.**

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Verse 1 – “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.”

Jesus is the bridegroom. And He is coming back. He is the returning Lord Jesus Christ.

This parable applies to each one of us. We need to apply it to our lives.

The setting of the parable is a first century Jewish wedding.

The bridegroom would leave his home and go with some of his close friends to the bride's home. There would be some brief festivities. They would then leave and make a festive procession to the groom's home, where they would celebrate the marriage feast. Usually, the ceremony would begin with the rise of the evening star. (In the parable there was a delay, and the groom only arrived at midnight).

Revelation 19:7 (NKJV) – “Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”

Verse 2 to 4 – “Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.”

When interpreting a parable, it is important not to ascribe deep meaning to every little aspect of the parable. Some aspects are crucial, and others are incidental.

The wise versus foolish virgins. Lots of opinions and commentaries. We need to be careful how we interpret.

The wise virgins are those who have true spiritual life. The foolish virgins are those who have the outward appearance, but they don't have true spiritual life, merely religion.

We must have the life of God in us. Jesus said to Nicodemus, you must be born again.

Wise virgins had spiritual life, as represented by the oil.

Verse 4 (AMP) – “But the wise took flasks of oil along with them [also] with their lamps.”

The foolish virgins took no oil with them.

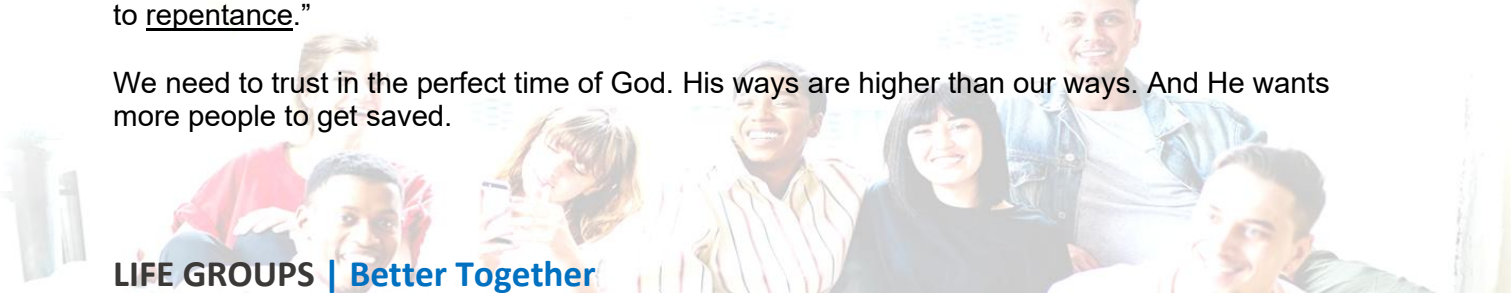
Verse 5 – “But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.”

Even though they all slept, the wise were ready when the call came.

The reason for Jesus's apparent delay is answered in 2 Cor 3:9.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) – “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

We need to trust in the perfect time of God. His ways are higher than our ways. And He wants more people to get saved.





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Verse 6 to 10 – “And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.”

The coming of Jesus will not be rushed. He will come at the last hour. But He will come!

Were the lamps burning all the time. The answer is no. If so the 5 foolish virgins would have realised sooner that they didn’t have oil in their lamps.

What does it mean to trim your lamp?

- Fill it with oil
- Flick of the charred end of the wick
- Light the lamp

When trimming their lamps the foolish virgins realised they didn’t have oil. They asked the other virgins to loan them some. There is a lesson here. You can’t get spiritual oil from somebody else. You can’t get into heaven based on someone else’s oil. You need to get oil (spiritual life) from the giver of oil, Jesus.

Grace is vast in its extent, but it has its limit. The door of grace will not be open forever.

Matthew 24:37 (NKJV) – “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”

Just like in the days of Noah, we are dealing with life and death matters. Eternal life with God or eternal separation from God.

Verse 11 to 12 – “Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’¹² But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you’.”

This is one of the most sobering verses in the Bible. The bridegroom said, I don’t know you. They were excluded. Marriage comes out of relationship.

Verse 13 – “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”

It is all about the oil. Jesus is saying that we need to have the oil of spiritual life.

What is your current spiritual condition.

Will you be found wise with spiritual oil, or will you be found foolish with no spiritual oil?



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