



Questions to Ponder:

1. What role in our spiritual life do you think the difficult passages of Scripture play?
2. What impact, if any, does reflecting on the Second Coming of Jesus have on your spiritual life? How much do you think it impacted the life of Jesus's first followers?
3. What are the similarities and the differences between the wise and foolish bridesmaids?
4. What do you think of the expression "God has no grandchildren"? Does that excite you or make you nervous?
5. Do you find the idea that the "oil" in the bridesmaid's lamps represents the Holy Spirit?
6. How does being aware that the "bridegroom may return at any moment" shape us into being both humble and confident?

Matthew 25:1-13

25 '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.

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."

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.

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.