

# Parable of the Lamps

(20-30min)

Have you ever forgotten a really important appointment? What was that like?

Or

What's the biggest (most important) thing you've ever lost? What was that like?

Losing things or forgetting things can be incredibly frustrating!

It's embarrassing and sometimes can communicate the wrong thing like "your not important"

Jesus often taught using parables. What are parables ? = Physical stories that help us understand spiritual truths.

Read

[Matthew 25:1-13](#)

Jesus wanted to explain what the Kingdom of God is like. The context is the second coming and Judgment day (SEE CHPTR 24). So, he tells us this story

## Background

In ancient times Weddings were 4-5 days long, during which the groom would come at an unexpected time. typically, the bride's maids' "virgins" would keep an eye out for the groom. No one was allowed on the streets after dark without a lamp so it was known and important to have a good lamp.

Ten young women...

5 Wise

5 Were foolish

The young girls are in darkness with oil and their lamps..

- **Oil was often used to symbolize the spirit of God**
- **Lamps were used to symbolize the word of God**

**So what's the big lesson with this little parable?**

**What is Jesus trying to show us?**

**What does it mean to be ready? To be prepared?**

**Why aren't people prepared? How do we get prepared?**

**Summary:** Lesson to LEARN = Must be prepared = Know Jesus and know your bible, are you prepared?

Do you have the word? are you low on it?  
how well do you know your Bible? Do you know where and how to find answers ? Do you rely on it?  
How much does it direct your life?

- **Heart-** Guides emotions
- **Mind** – think, make decisions
- **Spirit?** – love patience kindness

The Bible should be guiding our lives – dating, marriage, friendships, finances, discipline, do's and don'ts , etc etc

### **Matthew 24:42**

"Therefore, keep watch, because **you do not know** on what day your Lord will come.

How do we "Keep watch" ?

God wants us to be ready for Jesus, **Why ?** Because he loves us!

It's easy to think that Jesus is not really coming back, after all it's been 2000 years!  
However, Jesus assured us he would be back when people do not expect. I think most of us can honestly say we simply forget to expect him. We don't walk around wondering if Jesus is coming back today? But someday he will. There are two things no one knows. The day Jesus will return or the day we are going to die. Both of those will bring us instantly face to face with Jesus. We need to be prepared !

- **If you knew you were standing before God and his Judgment seat Tomorrow, what would you do today?**

**Go ahead and do it this week !!!**