**Title:** Once upon a time… (Matt. 25:1-13) – The Parable of the Ten Virgins

***Mark 4:10-12*** – Jesus used parables to teach and hide the truth.

***Matt. 13:18-23*** – Jesus’ disciples asked the meaning of a parable.

***Matt. 25:1-13*** – The first parable in Matt. 25 teaches preparedness.

***Matt. 25:14-30*** – The second parable in Matt. 25 teaches the importance of eternal investing.

***Matt. 25:31-46*** – The third parable in Matt. 25 teaches the importance of kindness.

1. What is the significance of the parable of the ten virgins for *humanity’s* future?

***Matt. 24:44*** – This parable is preceded by an event happening in the future.

***Matt. 25:1*** – Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven with the events in the parable.

***Rev. 19:6-9*** – As Jesus returns, He calls people to His wedding.

***Matt. 1:19*** – Breaking the relationship between Joseph and Mary required divorce even though they were not married.

***Gen. 29*** – Seven years passed between Jacob’s betrothal to Rachel and their marriage.

***Rev. 19:11-21*** – The Bride of Christ will watch as her Groom destroys her enemies.

***Eph. 5:25-27; Rev. 21:9; 22:17*** – The Bible pictures the Church as Jesus’ Bride.

***Jer. 30:7*** – The Tribulation is known as “the time of Jacob’s Trouble.”

***Rom***. ***11:11*** – God used the Gentiles to make Israel jealous.

***John 3:29*** – John, a Jew, identifies himself as a friend of the Groom.

***1 Sam. 10:1, 6*** – Oil was used to anoint prophets, priests, and kings. It represented the Spirit’s presence.

***Luke 24:49*** – Jesus told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came.

***Acts 2:3*** – Light was one of the manifestations of the Spirit’s presence.

1. What is the significance of the parable of the ten virgins for *my* future?
2. There is a celebration coming. (Matt. 25:1)

***Gen. 2:24*** – Marriage is the union of two into one.

***John 17:11, 23*** – Jesus prayed for His disciples to be unified with each other and with God.

***John 14:1-3*** – Jesus is preparing a home for His Bride.

***John 10:10*** – Jesus is the source of joy.

***Rev. 21:15-27*** – Description of New Jerusalem – our home

1. Not everyone is prepared for this celebration. (Matt. 25:2-4)

***Matt. 7:24-27*** – Jesus used the terms “wise” and “foolish” at the end of the Sermon on the Mt.

***Matt. 5:22*** – Calling someone a fool is serious.

***Luke 24:25*** – Jesus called two of His disciples foolish because they had not understood the Messiah must suffer.

***Luke 11:40*** – Jesus called the Pharisees foolish because they were concerned about the wrong things.

***Luke 12:20*** – Jesus called a rich man foolish because he had not prepared for eternity.

1. We don’t know the exact timing of the celebration. (Matt. 25:5-7)

***Matt. 24:36*** – Only the Father knows the timing of Jesus’ return.

***Matt. 26:39; Luke 23:46*** – Jesus was submissive to the Father throughout His ministry.

***John 5:17-19; 17:4*** – He had come only to do what His Father directed.

***John 8:28; 17:7-8*** – Jesus said only what His Father communicated.

***Matt. 3:17; 17:5*** – The Father was pleased with the Son.

***1 Thess. 5:4-8*** – Sleeping is a poor response to Jesus’ impending return.

1. Each person must be personally prepared for the celebration. (Matt. 25:8-9)

***Matt. 25:31-46*** – The sheep get entrance into the Kingdom because they gave away resources.

***Eph. 2:8-9*** – Good works won’t get us into the Kingdom.

***Isaiah 64:6*** – Our good works are like “filthy rags.”

***Matt. 22:11-13*** – No one can get into the wedding without proper attire.

***Rom. 10:17*** – Hearing Scripture builds faith.

***Exodus 32:32; Rom. 9:3*** – Moses and Paul offered to give up their place in Heaven for the benefit of Israel.

1. Some will be shut out of the celebration. (Matt. 25:10)
2. No amount of pleading will get unprepared people into the celebration. (Matt. 25:11-12)
3. Whoever doesn’t want to get left out of the celebration must get ready now. (Matt. 25:13)