

**Ready or Not
...Here He Comes**

Matthew 25:1-13

Introduction:

- Larger/immediate contexts
- Switch from genre of *prophetic oracle* to *parables*
- The Kingdom of Heaven/ch.13
 - Last usage of KoH in Matthew

The Parabolic Setup - v.1-2

Then the kingdom of heaven *will be* like

ten *virgins*

who took their *lamps*

and went to meet the *bridegroom*.

Five of them were *foolish*,

and five were *wise*.

Their Readiness for the Groom - v.3-4

For when the foolish took their lamps,

they *took no oil* with them,

but the wise

took flasks of oil with their lamps.

The Delay of the Groom - v.5-6

As the bridegroom was *delayed*,
they *all* became drowsy and slept.

But at midnight there was a cry,
'Here is the bridegroom!
Come out to meet him.'

Going to the Groom - v.7-9

Then all those virgins rose
and *trimmed* their lamps.

And the *foolish* said to the wise,
'Give us some of your oil,
for our lamps are going out.'

But the *wise* answered, saying,
'Since there will not be enough for us and for
you, go rather to the dealers and buy for
yourselves.'

The Bridegroom Arrives - v.10

And while they were going to buy,
the bridegroom *came*,
and those *who were ready*
went in with him to the marriage feast,
and the door *was shut*.

The Plea of the Foolish - v.11-12

Afterward the other virgins came also, saying,
'Lord, lord, open to us.'

But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you,
I do not know you.'

Jesus' Exhortation - v.13

Watch therefore,
for you *know neither* the day nor the hour.

Conclusions/Applications

- “The point is simply that readiness, whatever form it takes, is not something that can be achieved by a last-minute adjustment. It depends on long-term provision, and if that has been made, the wise disciple can sleep secure in the knowledge that everything is ready.” ~R.T. France
- Storing up the “oil of readiness”...
- We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your {work of *faith*} and {labor of *love*} and {steadfastness of *hope*} in our Lord Jesus Christ. ~1Thess 1:2-3
