

## **Wise & Foolish Bridesmaids**

Matthew 25:1-13

### **I. THE SETTING OF A WEDDING (1)**

#### **A. Redemptive History is a Romance.**

Jesus is the ultimate Romantic Hero of the Greatest Love Story ever told.

#### **B. Jesus is coming back. (2 Pet 3:3; Jude 1:18).**

#### **C. It's what we're waiting for. (1 Cor 11:26)**

Christianity is an historical religion. The story isn't over.

### **II. THE STATE OF THE CHURCH**

#### **A. The Visible Church—the human organization bearing the name of Christ (what we see) in contrast to the *true spiritual reality* of the church (what God sees)**

1. **The Truly Regenerate (Jn 3:3)—*those who actually belong to Jesus,***

2. **The Merely Religious (2 Tim 3:5)—*those Christian in name and appearance only***

#### **B. The Midnight Cry—(6)**

1. **Be prepared for a long delay.**

2. **Be prepared to go with Him whenever He arrives.**

#### **C. The Persevering Saints**

They have made provision for their souls and true faith will sustain them to the end.

### III. THE STATE OF YOUR SOUL (3)

#### A. Each soul needs a personal relationship with Jesus.

If you don't have a living relationship with Jesus, none of these things will save you.

1. Knowledge is not enough. (Jam 2:19)—*intellectual assent*
2. Emotion is not enough. (1 Sam 10:10 & 19:24—King Saul)—*religious experience*
3. Rites and Rituals are not enough. (Rom 2:28-29)—*sacraments & religious forms*
4. Good Works are not enough. (Rom 3:20; 1 Cor 13:3)
5. Going to church is not enough. (Jer 7:9-10)—*membership or participation in a local church or denomination*

#### B. The Visible Church contains many foolish members.

1. Unbelieving ()—*They are in the church for reasons other than true faith.*
2. Unconcerned ()—*They are preoccupied with the concerns of this life*
3. Unprepared ()—*They give no thought to the destiny or care of their souls.*

#### C. Each person is responsible for her own faith. (8-9)

### IV. THE CLOSING OF THE DOOR (10-12)

#### A. There is a Door.

B. It will not stay open forever. (2 Cor 6:2) The Marriage Feast of the Lamb is not an Open House event.

1. Those Who Are Ready Will Go In.
2. Those Who Are Not Ready Will Be Shut Out.

Have you made adequate provision for the future of your soul?