

Matthew 25:1-2

Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

Here in Texas, this last week there were below freezing temperatures for about four and a half days, and snow up to six inches in the part that I live in. One part of TX experienced eleven inches in one day.

Now this is unusual for Texas, and it rarely snows here or even get this cold. I know some of you in other parts of the USA are thinking, what's the big deal, that's sweater weather for us, which may be true, but not for Texas. A lot of people are also leaving California and moving to TX, including myself, so we are not used to this kind of weather, and over the last week, I could tell that Texas, and Texans do not know how to deal with this severe cold weather either. Simply put, even though they said on the news that it was coming, yet we choose to ignore the warnings.

During this severe weather, a lot of people lost power with rolling blackouts and some lost power for hours or even a few days. Some had lost water pressure and a lot also lost water altogether for a few days. So with not properly preparing, people were running out of water, and a lot of people were bundled up and huddling under covers to try and stay warm with weather below freezing. Water pipes were freezing and bursting, people hoarding all the food from the stores, and stores loosing their cold and frozen foods because of power outages. It was crazy here in TX for the last week.

But Friday we had a relief of warmer weather in the low forties, with the snow finally melting and the roads drivable, but still store shelves, especially the dairy and cold sections were bare. But things are returning to normal.

But you are not here to read about TX, but learn God's word, and there is a reason to the information I just gave you. You see, we were not prepared, even though we were warned about it coming, but really didn't understand or know how it really would affect us. So it wasn't taken as serious as it should had been by the people. And it made me think of today's devotional verse, which is part of the parable that Jesus told about the ten Virgins and the oil for their lamps. Let's read it in it's entirety.

† **Matthew 25:1-13** *Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose 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, 'No, lest there should not be enough for*

us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

Reading this parable, all ten virgins knew that the bridegroom would be coming, and with the knowing, all ten knew they needed oil for their lamps and that they had to be prepared for his arrival.

Today it seems Jesus' return is preached and taught everywhere, and everyone knows it, but just because everyone knows it, does not mean everyone will be prepared when He comes back for His bride, the Church (believers), and those who are not prepared will be left behind. There will be pastors in some churches that even though they teach the bible from the pulpit, they teach a false Jesus, or they personally are not prepared themselves, so they will be left behind. Many in the churches will be left behind as well, because even though they sit in church every Sunday, it does not mean that they are saved. Once again, they are not prepared for His return.

So, how do you know if you are prepared? We are all vessels, just like all ten virgins had vessels, but only five had oil in their vessels, and oil represents the Holy Spirit.

First off, and the most important questions is, is your vessel (you) full of oil (The Holy Spirit), or simply, have you given your life to Jesus, confessed your sins to Him, repented of your sin, and is He Lord of your life? If you answered Yes, then according to the bible you are saved.

But one other thing to think about, maybe you said a prayer and went forward at an altar call, say at church on Easter, or at a crusade, but your life has not changed at all since then, you have been living the same way, you have no relationship with Jesus other then going to church on special occasions (Christmas and Easter), you spend no time in the word, or in prayer everyday and you are not going to church are being a part of the church. I would say, that you need to examine your heart, and decide if are you really a believer, or did you just say a prayer to stay out of hell, but you are still living like hell, and you only use the name of Jesus as a curse word, instead of as the name of your Savior.

Once again, you MUST be saved to be filled with the Holy Spirit and there is only salvation in Jesus Christ.

† **Acts 4:12** *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

† **1 Corinthians 6:11** *And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

Another thing to ask yourself is, are you looking for Jesus to return for His bride (Which includes you as a believer), the church? Are you doing what Jesus taught, which is to ***Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning-- lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.*** **Mark 13:35-36**

Texas was not prepared for a week of severe freezing weather, even though the people were warned. Are you prepared for Jesus' return?

If you are not, you will end up spending eternity in hell, and if the rapture of the church happens, then the next seven years after it happens, you will be going through the tribulation period and the wrath of God for those seven years because you were not prepared?

If you know you are not prepared but you want to be, then give your life to Jesus, confess your sins to Him and repenting (Turning from) of your sins, and make Him Lord of your life?

† ***Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.***

† ***Mark 13:37 And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!***