

"THE TEN VIRGINS"**Introduction**

1. The Lord here speaks of the end of time
2. Repeatedly:
 - i. chapter 24
 - ii. these parables...
3. We are so apt to forget He is coming again!

1. THESE TEN VIRGINS REPRESENT THE CHURCH

- 1) This is clear from v.1: "kingdom of heaven":
 - (i) a term which may mean: a state of grace
 - (ii) or, the state of glory = heaven
 - (iii) but also, the church here and now on earth
- 2) So, those who are church-goers are meant:
 - (i) they are respectable people: "virgins"
 - (ii) they make a profession of Christ's religion: "lamps"
 - (iii) they have gospel-knowledge: "the Bridegroom"

OBSERVE: The Church and church-goers are meant:

 - (i) all denominations
 - (ii) of all ages

OBSERVE: All churches profess certain central truths

2. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOME AND OTHERS OF THEM

- 1) There are two types of church-goer:
 - (i) those who profess something – but no grace
 - (ii) those who profess and have grace
- 2) One could express it another way:
 - (i) the lamp with oil: saving grace
 - (ii) the lamp without oil: common grace
- 3) What can common grace do for us:

- (i) a nominal acceptance of the truth
 - (ii) a decent, respectable life-style
 - (iii) a general expectation of heaven
- OBSERVE**: This is a very common problem

3. A SLEEPY CONDITION CAME OVER THEM ALL

- 1) "They all...slept" (v.5):
 - (i) reason: the time seemed so long
 - (ii) it is hard work to keep up the vigil
- 2) **OBSERVE**: This is always a problem with churches:
 - (i) people go to sleep – or are half-asleep
 - (ii) ex: sleep in church / lose zeal to witness / irregular in Prayer Meeting / once a day
 - (iii) the trend is always the same: sleepy

APPLICATION: It needs vigilance to stay awake

4. SOME CHURCH-GOERS MAKE A FATAL MISTAKE

- 1) v.3-4: some had no oil
- 2) Oil is a symbol of God's Holy Spirit ("unction")
- 3) The profession of faith is not genuine:
 - (i) it is not the result of conversion
 - (ii) so it will die out eventually
- 4) These try to solve the problem wrongly:
 - (i) "Give us of your oil" – but we cannot!
 - (ii) It is from God – and must be got NOW

APPLICATION: How many are without oil!

5. IT WILL BE ALL TOO LATE WHEN CHRIST COMES

- 1) The Lord comes suddenly (v.6) – the converted go in with the Lord (v.10) – door is shut.

2) v.11-12: The day of grace is over now

3) The wedding-feast begins but some are shut out. O!

CONCLUSION

1.Do you really have grace?

2.Look at v.13 here.

PSALMS

50¹: 1 – 6

37: 35 – 40

98: 4 – 9