

A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Before we begin

Chapter 25

let us pick up
from the end of

Chapter 24.

- There is no break
in the words of Jesus
from Ch. 24 to Ch. 25.

- Notice the word “Then” at the beginning of Ch. 25.
- Immediately following His warning about the collapse of Judaism
He now gives a warning to believers.
- This is where we begin today.

- If Ch. 24 was the end of the world
 - Why is Jesus talking about the kingdom?
 - No world!
 - No kingdom!

- What is it going to be like now that Judaism is no longer an obstacle..
 - So He extends an invitation to the wedding for all.
- Now, we are warned that the bridegroom is coming!

- As we begin Ch. 25

let us notice that

here we find

- No question of apostasy,

- No question of unfaithfulness.

- So what do we find?

- A warning to keep
our light shining brightly.

- **Matthew 25:1**

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

- Weddings never go out of style.
- They are as old fashioned as yesterday and as modern as today's newspaper.
 - There is something fresh and beautiful about each one.
- For we never seem to get over the excitement of watching two lives become one.

- At most weddings a lot of fuss is made over the bride and groom,
- But no one pays much attention to the attendants.
 - Not so with Jesus.
- He chooses to use a wedding scene as a parable,
- To illustrate further what he means by the command, "Watch!"

- He doesn't even mention the bride

- And only incidentally the bridegroom.

- His attention is focused on ten young ladies who were invited to the marriage.
- And when he finishes the story of the ten maidens the Lord adds again,
 - "Watch therefore,
for you know neither
the day nor the hour."

- This parable has **two universal warnings.**

- (1) It warns us that there are certain things which cannot be obtained **at the last minute.**

- It is easy to leave things so late that we can no longer prepare ourselves to meet with God.

- (**Amos 4:12**)

- (2) It warns us that there are certain things which cannot be borrowed.

- The foolish virgins found it impossible to borrow oil, when they discovered they needed it.

- A man cannot borrow a relationship with God; he must possess it for himself.

- A man cannot borrow a character; he must be clothed with it.

- We cannot always be living on the spiritual capital of others.
- There are certain things we must acquire for ourselves.

- Why should we of all people need to be warned?
 - The answer is
- We are like the Laodicean of the Revelation letter
 - We have trouble keeping our minds focused.
 - At least in terms of spiritual things.

- The Laodicean,
has a short attention span.

- He can go at it in spurts,

- Maybe on Sunday
for a couple of hours

- But what happens
during the week?

- Has our love for the beauty that is in this world distracted us?
- As we are drawn to those things?
- What happens to our relationship with God?

- The Laodicean has compromised with the use of his time.

- It is not that he is sinning all the time,

- But he is not paying attention!

- **Ecclesiastes 2:13**

- **wisdom**

- excelleth folly,**

- **as far as light**

- excelleth darkness.**

- Let us notice that at this wedding the bride is only mentioned.
- In fact she does not appear at all.
- Nor does the bridegroom except for a brief appearance.

- Our Lord focuses primarily upon those who are waiting for the bridegroom.

- There are seven things about this parable to consider.

- **# 1 We are waiting!**

- These maidens were waiting for the coming of the bridegroom.

- But as we shall discover, waiting is not enough!

- Life seems to be made up of a great deal of waiting.
- When we are little we can't wait to grow up.

- Can't wait is a big part of life.
- So, why is waiting so important?
- It is that which concerns our lesson for today.

- **The 2nd thing to notice is that while we are waiting unexpected things happen.**

- All have their lamps and for the moment all shine brightly.

- **But.....**

- Five of them were wise, and five were foolish.
- They that were foolish took their lamps but took no oil with them.

- But the wise took extra oil for their lamps.
- There did not seem to be much difference between them.

- The difference was imperceptible to most onlookers,
- But it was essential a fatal difference.

- **It is the lack of oil**
that is the ruin of many
- Many have a name
that they live
as their lamp
burns brightly
for awhile.

- They make a profession of religion, but they are not able to keep it up.

- They have no reserve.

- Five maidens have brought along extra oil, and five have not.
- This does not represent a division between good and bad,
- But, as Jesus says, between the wise and the foolish.

- Here there is **no moral division intended.**

- In their expectation of the coming bridegroom **they are all equally sincere and devoted.**

- The **only difference** is, five of them felt it would be wise to provide some extra oil.

- They were all agreed on the importance of oil and all were using it for its proper purpose, the giving of light.
 - The only slight difference was that some felt more was needed than others.

- What the oil represents we shall see in a moment,
- But it is certainly evident that the wise and the foolish are still with us.

- Despite the warning
Jesus gives
there will always be the wise and the foolish.
- Some will in spite of all be lacking the essential
for waiting
till the Lord returns.

- If this parable has any message at all for us, it is that we determine what that essential is.

- Seemingly all would have gone well for the whole ten if the bridegroom had come when expected.
- But this is a parable and we are introduced to an unexpected delay.

- **The 3rd thing to notice is...**
 - **"As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept".**
 - But at midnight there was a cry, **'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'**"

- There are many who view this as suggesting negligence on the part of the maidens.
- But there is no hint of rebuke or disapproval suggested by the Lord for this sleeping.
- And the wise slept as well as the foolish!

- This indicates that while we are waiting for our Lord's return.

- We are not to be continually peering up into the heavens.

- Nor are we to be forever singing,

" There's A Great Day Coming"

- What our Lord is indicating is that watching also allows time for normal activities.

- We have jobs to attend to.
 - Meals to be prepared.
 - Children to watch over.
 - Weddings to attend.
- And sadly funerals to attend.
 - Life must go on.

- While we are engaged in the normal activities of life,
there is no need
to feel guilty
because
we have not been thinking of the Lord's return.

- There is nothing at all wrong about this, it is as it should be.

- We have not failed to watch because we have been busy
doing necessary things.

- These maidens were waiting for the bridegroom's coming, even while they slept.

- There was a sense of imminence when they went out, yet a perfectly proper activity took their attention for a time.

- **The 4th thing to notice is the developing crisis.**

- In it is revealed
the wisdom
of the wise

- and
the foolishness
of the foolish.

- **Mat 25:7** Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.
- **25:8** And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.
 - **25:9** But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you:
- but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

- To the dismay of the foolish,
they find their lamps
are flickering
and about to go out.
 - The long delay
has used up the oil
and they have no more.

- They make their appeal to the wise:

"Give us some of your oil."

- The reply of the wise indicates that oil **is not something that can be borrowed or loaned.**
- In such an hour **each has what he has and nothing more.**

- **Matthew 25:10** And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.
- **25:11** Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.
- **25:12** But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, **I know you not.**
- **25:13** Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

- Tell them of things not seen as yet,
and you are like Lot
to his sons-in-law,
- “As one that mocked” .
(Genesis 19:14)

- When the foolish finally arrived,
the door was shut.
- Are we **not surprised** at that?
 - Many will probably feel that these five were **unjustly treated.**

- Why should they not be allowed into the wedding, even if they were a few moments late?

- But there is no vindictiveness in this shut door.

- We must be careful that we do not impose our faulty judgments into this matter.
- What the Lord did was right,
 - And we must look diligently for those clues that will help us learn why he takes such action as this

- There is even a note of sorrow in these words, "I do not know you."
- Our Lord's words are a faithful, honest revelation of something that had been true all along.

- Weddings are no place for strangers.
- Only the friends of the family are permitted to come.

- Acts 2:47

And the Lord added to the church daily

- **such as should be saved.**

- So to these five foolish maidens **the door is shut.**
- For the Lord says, **"Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.**
(Matthew 25:12)

- **The 4th thing to notice is the meaning of the oil.**
- Oil, in the Old Testament, is frequently used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

- **Kings** and **priests** were anointed with oil as a sign of their **consecrated lives.**
- The **oil** symbolized the Spirit of God by which the light of God could be maintained in the hour of darkness.
- **Thy word is a light...**
(**Psalms 119:105**)

- It was the lack of
an adequate supply of oil
which caused these
foolish maidens
to be met with the words,
- "I do not know you."
 - They did, of course,
have some oil when they began
 - But it was not enough.
 - Which begs the question,
"Do I have enough?"

- **The 5th thing to notice is...**
 - **Halfway is Not Enough!**
 - The great danger is that it is possible **to know much doctrine**
- But **never** to know the Lord.

- This is the problem with the foolish of this life as they want just enough oil to give them relief from fear and guilt,

- But they never completely surrender their lives to the authority of Jesus Christ.

- The foolish, then, are those who have only a superficial knowledge of scriptural truth.

- They look for comfort only in some hour of **uncertainty** and **doubt**.
- They believe in the Bible **but not in the** Lord of the Bible.
 - But faith must go **deeper than doctrine**.

- **Knowledge is worthless**
unless it leads to
the surrender of self.
 - God freely lights
a lamp of knowledge
for all who want to know
the truth of revelation,
 - But what Jesus
indicates here is
that there must be
a deeper level
of commitment.

- The wise have found that deeper level.
 - They have an extra reservoir of oil
- which continually feeds the flame of life,
 - Never letting it falter in darkness,
 - Never doubting in the dark what they have learned in the light.
 - Keeping them firm and steady in the midst of the pressures of life.

- They have found a **friend** who sticks closer than a brother.
 - They have a **hidden supply of oil** that lights the flame of life despite the circumstances,
- And the **greater** the pressure the **brighter** the light shines.

- **The 6th thing is the RISK we all take.**
- What danger am I in **if I begin to drift** and gradually drawn back into the great cold indifference of the deluded masses of the world?
- If something like that happens it will do no good to say to another, **"Give me of your oil."**
- That **cannot** be done.

- Every lamp given to the believer is marked

"Nontransferable."

- It **cannot** be shared with anyone else.

- With the things of the world **we either renounce it** or we risk everything upon it.
- Is this not what Jesus meant when he said,
"Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it"
(Matthew 16:25)?

- **The 7th thing to notice is...**
- **There is no compromise.**
 - Some are seeking to make a **partial** commitment.
 - **Luke 9:62**
- **“And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”.**

- That last alternative simply does not exist.
- That is what Jesus is saying here.
 - That is why he says plainly to the foolish maidens,
 - "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you."

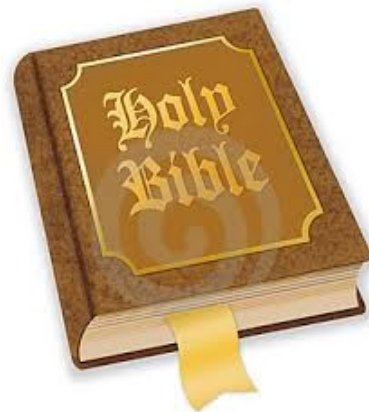
- The end shows them for what they are.
- The door is shut,
- Both to the unbeliever who never tried to get in
- And to the foolish person who never took God seriously.

- May our lamp burn brightly and may its flame never go out.
 - In every life-crisis the soul is made stronger.
- May we along with Peter have an extra store of oil.
 - “Add to your faith...”
(2Peter 1:5)

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 02-03-2019 Tryon, NC