



“Be dressed in readiness,
and keep your lamps lit”

Luke 12:35

Oil Change

Read: Matthew 25:1-13

In the gospel Jesus compares entering heaven to ten bridesmaids who are awaiting the arrival of the groom. Unfortunately, only five of the bridesmaids are ready for his arrival. The unprepared are exempt from the wedding.

Jesus points out that the bridesmaids who were prepared possessed three formative qualities. If we want to take our place in God’s Kingdom, we must follow their example.

1. Be Wise: The prudent bridesmaids who followed the groom had ample oil to last the night. The others did not. We must ensure that we spend our resources wisely. We must not wastefully consume our oil on pastimes, entertainments and gratifications that do not serve the Kingdom of God.

2. Be Ready: The bridesmaids’ foresight kept their objective in mind. They knew the groom was coming and were ready for his arrival. We must keep the end in mind, remembering that our objective is eternal life. Our priority should not be on the things of this world, but on spiritual preparedness.

3. Keep Awake: The vigilant bridesmaids knew the groom could arrive at any moment. They kept vigil so that they would not miss him. We do not know when Jesus will arrive. Therefore, we must consistently guard our hearts and minds, making sure that we are spiritually awake. We do not know when we shall be called to account for how we spent our oil.

At the end of our lives we shall all hear the call, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!” Our ability to respond to this call will depend on how we prepare ourselves. It is only those who spent their spiritual oil wisely that will be able to enter into paradise. Let us follow the example of the wise bridesmaid and prepare to enter the joy of paradise.