

Matthew 25:1-13
Watch and Be Ready

- I. A Wedding Tale
 - A. The Party
 - B. 10 Maidens
 - C. Turns Dramatic
 - 1. Joy
 - 2. Disappointment
 - D. The Moral
- II. With A Message
 - A. The Kingdom
 - B. The Church
 - C. A Divide
 - 1. Celebration
 - 2. Regrets
 - D. The Exhortation

Every Wedding Needs a Story

In the Hallmark world every story needs a wedding. In the real world every wedding needs a good story. Engaged couples often express their fears that something might go wrong at their wedding ceremony or the reception that follows. My standard reply is ... what fun is it if things go perfect?! every wedding needs a good story. If it goes too smoothly, it might be a wonderfully special time. But in my humble opinion, you need a good, fun, story to tell. While that may or may not be true in our weddings, the wedding story Jesus tells takes a dramatic turn. But He doesn't tell the story for entertainment's sake, He tells it to get the listeners to think soberly about their faith walk and preparedness for the great day of His return. The everlasting wedding feast celebration participants will in God's Kingdom will enjoy will far exceed the best service and celebration this earth has ever offered. The difference between wisdom and folly here amounts to the difference between inclusion and exclusion from the Kingdom of God. Conversely, for those who are foolishly unprepared, the results will be infinitely more tragic than missing the most elaborate celebration this world might have to offer. Matters of life and eternity are weighty, and Kingdom preparedness is to be the constant pursuit of every believer's life.

Children, Listen ...

1. What were the ten girls in Jesus' story getting ready for?
2. They all had oil-torches to be part of it but what was the problem some of them had?
3. What happened when they got to the wedding party?
4. How can you make sure you are prepared for the Kingdom of God?