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# Campbell Chapel

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Sermon by Bob Bradley



## Have you made PREPARATION?

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Bob Bradley

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.

Matthew 25:2 And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.

Matthew 25:3 They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

Matthew 25:4 But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

Matthew 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

Matthew 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Matthew 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Matthew 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.

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.

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Jesus is going to answer a question that was asked to Him in Matthew 24, the first part of 24. The disciples asked, "When shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming and the end of the age?" Jesus here, in chapter 25, is answering one of those questions. He is going to tell them, He is going to show them some things that are going to be, that they can look around at and see; it is a story, a parable, but it is something that they can look at and understand that some of the events that were going to be taking place in the last days. He is describing—I know He is talking about Israel. We understand that. However, He is also telling us what we can look at as a church; we can look around and see the condition of the church, in the last days. We can look and see what is going to be taking place in the church, in Christianity here on earth in the last days.

He is going to compare the kingdom of heaven unto a wedding, the Bible says here. He compares unto 10 virgins...

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.

If you read much about a wedding, a Jewish wedding; it was a seven-day event. It lasted seven days. It was a big festival that went on. We know that a man and woman were betrothed, or engaged for a year before they could be married. It was just a good time. The wedding itself was a good time. They had a program. They had a plan. They had a way that they did things. All the disciples here that are listening would have understood about the ten virgins. They would have understood about the bridegroom. They would have understood about the wedding because they saw this thing play out many, many times in their own lives.

You know, the virgins here, who they were—they were young girls. They were girls and they had a very important part...in a wedding. We know that the bridegroom would go get the bride and he would come back to his house. As he would come back these young girls were there. But they were very important. Not only was the bridegroom important but these young girls were important. These young girls had a lamp. They had a torch that they had. Not only that but also, they had something they would have to do when the bridegroom came then they had a responsibility that they had to do.

It says there were ten of them. It took ten men, if you read the history about Israel; it took 10 men to establish a synagogue. It took 10 individuals to do different things. It was a number they used a lot for completeness and things to be done in that way. In every Jewish wedding that I ever read about there were always 10 of these young girls, or these virgins that were there.

The Bible says that they went forth to meet the bridegroom. So, here they are. They know that they are close to the time of the wedding. They know that they are living, they have been chosen. They know at this particular time is a very close time, when the bridegroom is going to leave his house. He is going to go down to his bride's house. He is going to get her. He is going to bring her back to his house. They are going to have a big party. The wedding, the marriage will be consummated. Then they will start living together as husband and wife.

Here is what is going to happen. These virgins the Bible says, five were wise and five were foolish. Now when you look at that—and I have read some people, and I know people mean well sometimes. They want to try to take and make this mean that 50% of people who goes to church are saved and 50% are lost. Well, I am not near that smart and you are not either. I am not going to make a statement like that because I don't know who is lost or who is saved. I do know this.

Jesus, if you turn back over a few chapters; He said, we can tell people by their fruit. If people live lives where they never bring forth any fruit—when you go over to the book of

Galatians 5 and read some things there about the fruit of the spirit—if people live their lives and they never bring forth any fruit of a Christian then do you know what we can know? We can know that they are not Christian people because Christian people sometime will bring fruit in their life. I know that we are different times and different stages of fruit. I know that some comes quicker than others. I understand that. However, if you live a dedicated, consecrated Christian life then there are going to be spiritual fruit in your life. If that fruit does not come and you have fruit that has nothing to do with a Christian life then it is a very evident thing that you are not a Christian.

When I say that do you know what some people do? They go crazy. “You are judging people.” I’m not judging people at all. The Bible makes it very plain. Christian people—we can know them by how they live, what they work and how they work and the things they produce in their life. We can know that.

Five of them were wise and five of them were foolish. Now here is what I want you to think about. Five of these young girls were wise and five were foolish. What made—I want you to think about—what made the five wise? What was it about the five that made them foolish?

Something very simple today. It is in our world today. It is in our lives. It is in our churches today. It is something very simple. It is called PREPARATION. It is called preparation. These foolish here, they knew they had a responsibility. They had a great position here. They knew where they needed to stand. They knew where the bridegroom was going to come and they knew he was going to travel this road. They knew that. They understood that. They understood that he was going to come this way. They understood that when the call went out, what they had to do and their responsibility. They understood that but they made no preparation.

Do you know what they thought? They thought a whole like a lot of people who goes to church today. They think that Jesus Christ is not going to come in their lifetime. They think they are going to live to be 100. They think that tragedy is never going to come their way. However, we don’t know that. We don’t know when Jesus is coming. We know what day is our last day here on planet earth. It may be today. We need to make sure that we have made preparation.

How do we do that? How do we make preparation? It is very simple. As I said in the beginning, do you have something? Are you empty? Is your life empty? Christian people, when an individual gets saved according to the book of 1 Corinthians 12 and other places—when you read there, you will find out that when an individual is born again, when they say “yes” to Jesus Christ, when they say, “Lord, please forgive me, a sinner.” Do you know what happens? They are born into the family of Almighty God. They are born into the family of Almighty God by the Spirit of Almighty God. Amen! By the Holy Ghost. That is how we are born into the family of Almighty God. If you read the story of Nicodemus in chapter 3 of John; that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which of the spirit is spirit. Therefore, we are born into the family of God by the

Holy Spirit of Almighty God. Not only are we born into Him and we take on Him but He moves on the inside. He comes in our lives. He comes and He takes the enemy and throws him out of our hearts. And He takes the dominate place in our lives. Christian people today, saved people today are indwelled by the Holy Ghost. That is true. You may say I don't understand that. Well, if you don't understand that then you know very little about the Bible. The Bible is full of that. We are indwelled by the Holy Ghost. We are indwelled and we are empowered by His presence. We have something. We are indwelled by someone not something but someone and that is the Holy Ghost. Do you know what we have done if you are saved? We have made preparation. We have made preparation for Jesus to come. We have made preparation to leave this life. We have made preparation for the afterlife. Do you know what we knew? We came to the realization one day that hell is real. We are going to die one day. If we die lost, we are going to spend eternity in hell. We came to realize that one day. We have made preparation for the day when the bridegroom comes. Saved people have made that preparation. Amen! If you have not made that preparation then you need to. Because you are going to stand before Him one day and do you know how I don't want to see you there? Empty! Not having nothing. These five virgins—that is where they are going to end up at.

They have been here. They have done this before. They knew that the bridegroom was going to come. They knew where he was going to walk down through. They knew all of that. However, they did not think he was going to tarry quite so long.

I know people in my own family, people that used to be faithful to church, even here, that don't want to come anymore. Do you know why? Because they got too tired of waiting. They got too tired of waiting on Jesus. They thought He was going to come in 1981. They thought He was going to come in 1988. They thought He was going to come in 1992, 94, and all these different years. You know, if you ever talk to people like that; they are very scary people. We used to have people that sat here in these seats that were dedicated for a year or two—you couldn't have beat them. They were scared to death about the year 2,000. Amen! You know what I am talking about. They were scared to death. However, when the year 2,000 came the clock turned past midnight and nothing happened—do you know what happens? They get tired of waiting.

Again, people that sat here in these seats at Campbell Chapel; they were like that. They thought that things were going to happen and when they did not happen there just wasn't any use to them.

These virgins here—five were wise and five were foolish.

Matthew 25:2 And five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.

Matthew 25:3 They that *were* foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

The wise the Bible says, took oil in their vessels with their lamps. The wise has a lamp. Amen! They have a lamp and it is burning. The foolish have a lamp and it is burning.

But the wise has something that the foolish does not have and they have a supply. They have an endless supply. They have an endless supply.

Get this. You and I today, we that are saved; we have an endless supply of His presence. We live right, do you know what He will do? He will never leave us nor forsake us. He will never run off and leave us. He will never separate us from His favor as long as we live right. Amen! Now if we live wrong then you don't have His favor. Amen! It is gone. You do not have His favor anymore when you live wrong. However, we have an endless supply of His grace day in and day out, week in and week out. I don't know when He is coming but I am more enthused today about going to heaven than I was yesterday. I am not getting discouraged as I go on this way. I am getting encouraged. Do you know why? It is because I know I am one day closer than I was yesterday. Amen!

The foolish here; they had their lamp and they took it with them but that is all they had. They just had a lamp. The Bible said that while the bridegroom tarries they all slumbered and slept.

Matthew 25:5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

We have a lot of people in our churches today that are sleeping. We do have. We have people that are unsaved that come to our churches that are sleeping. We have people that are saved that comes to our churches that are sleeping. When I look at things world-wide, again, I don't know how many people are saved or lost. I don't have any idea. I do one thing. We have a lot of people that have been born again that are sleeping today. We have a lot of people that are born again that are sleeping tonight. Amen!

Matthew 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Get that. Here these young virgins are. They have a lamp. They are waiting on him to come. Here they are. The call comes out. That is what would have happened. The call would have been made that the bridegroom was coming down the road to get his bride and come back to the house. The call goes out. The Bible says here, it is at midnight. Most people are sleeping at midnight. Aren't they? I think there is a good thought with that. We don't have time to get to that though. All of the virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

Matthew 25:7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

I don't know if you know anything about a lamp or not but years ago, when I was just a kid, we had electric in our house part of the time. If the wind would blow it usually went out. For many years, we had lamps and put them on the wall. I am sure Grannie has used these many times. We had kerosene lamps that we would put on our tables. Many times, that is all we had. However, do you know what about a lamp that a lot of people may not know. It has a wick in it. It is like a cloth that comes up from the base

of it that goes down in the kerosene and it comes up and you can turn this wick up and down. That is what burns, is the wick in it. If that wick gets a little bit crooked, or it gets a little frayed on the end; do you know what it will do? It will burn black, or it will burn smoky. Do you know what it will do then? The globe that is on—I'm sure Grannie has done this many a time; the globe that is on your lamp gets cloudy. Even though the lamp is burning, you can't see it much because it has too much dirt.

Our lives are just like that. Our lives, we get so much dirt in them sometimes that we are not burning much. We are not shouting much. We are putting off a lot of smoke but we are not putting out much light sometimes.

The Bible says, they trimmed their lamps. They rose. They trimmed their lamps. The Bible says this.

Matthew 25:8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

Matthew 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.

So, they arose, all of them did. All of them were asleep. They wake up. They hear the cry. They all wake up. The foolish said to the wise, "Hey, our lamps have gone out. We did not bring any extra oil with us. We know you have some. Give us of your oil." Talking to the wise. Do you know what the wise said? Can't do it.

Do you know what I can't do and you can't do? It would be one thing if we could do this but we can't. We cannot share our salvation experience with anybody else. Now I can tell you about it. I can tell you about my experience. However, the experience that I have experienced; I cannot share that with you. In other words, I am not saved enough that I can get me and you both to heaven. You are not either. You have enough oil to get you to heaven. You have enough of the presence of Almighty God in you, to get you to heaven. Amen! Not your family. Not your children. Not your husband or your wife, or no one else. You have enough of the Holy Ghost to get you to heaven. I don't care how spiritual you are. I don't care how long you have been saved. I don't care how much of the Word of God you can quote. You have enough of the Holy Ghost in you to get you to heaven, and you alone. Now we can share that experience with people and we can lead other people to it. However, do you know what? Their experience will be for them. It will be a personal relationship with Him. Amen! They cannot... get that. Understand that.

The wise said, "We don't have anything to give you. What you need to do is go to them that buy and sell and buy for yourself." That is what they did.

The Bible says, as you read down through the story, in verse 11.

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.

I hope that people who are listening to me tonight, I hope that people, I hope that you are not going to try to wait until Jesus Christ appears in the clouds to repent of your sins. I hope that you are not going to wait until the cry is made for you to make things right with God. Do you know what is going to happen if you do that? You might think when He comes, and we see people gone; it is going to be in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. Jesus comes. He is coming that quick.

The foolish go to buy oil but while they are gone, the bridegroom comes. The five wise light up the road to see as they come. Him and his bride—there is a pretty story there in Revelation 19. I hope you read that the other day, on Sunday. They come and they pass where the five wise are at. Their lamps are burning. They have trimmed them. They are burning just fine. They go on down to father's house. He goes in and gets his bride and there they are.

Here is what happens. The Bible tells us here...

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.

“they that were ready...” It makes you think about Noah's time. Doesn't it? Everybody was on the boat. Do you know what happened? When they got them all on there, it sat there for seven days. Then He shuts up the side and it starts to rain. Do you know what? There is going to be a day that God is going to close the door of salvation. There is going to be a day, it is going to be too late for you. I don't know when that is. I don't have any idea. I don't know how long you are going to live. I don't know when the Lord is coming. I don't know what tragedy may come to me or you tonight. I don't have any idea. However, I do know that there is going to be a day, one day it is going to be too late for people to repent of sins. When that day is, I don't know.

The Bible says in verse 11...

Matthew 25:11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

See what happens? They go and get what they needed to take. They come back to the door. They start beating on the door. “Let us in.” Look what happens.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

It is going to be a frightening thing for a lot of people. Again, I am not being judgmental when I say this, when they have to stand before Almighty God, and Almighty will say to them and they will hear the awful words, “I never knew you.” That is going to be an awful saying. As you read the story, we know that people are going to say, “Lord, you preached in our streets. You have healed people. Lord, we saw all that you did. We cast out demons in your name. Lord, we have done all of this Lord and you are trying to say that you don't know me.”

Do you know what makes us known to Him? His presence dwelling in us. What makes us part of the family of God is because we have asked Jesus Christ to forgive us of our

sins and to cleanse us and to born us into His family. That is what makes us a candidate to go to heaven. Not because you are a member of this church, or any other church. Not because you have been baptized. Not because you have given money. Not because you do, go and get and run yourself ragged. That does not have anything to do with it necessarily. That has nothing to do with your salvation. It has to do with living right. It has nothing to do with salvation.

However, what it is going to take for you, what you need in your life, when the Lord comes your way, is His presence in your life. Do not be caught standing before Him empty hearted. It is going to be a sad day.

Matthew 25:12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Matthew 25:13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Are you watching today? Have you made preparation today? I am not asking you if you belong to a church. I am not asking if you do good stuff. I am not asking you any of that stuff. I am asking you, do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Do you know that He dwells on the inside? Do you know that you have taken on a divine nature of Almighty God? When you mess up does your conscious bother you? When you mess up, does He say, "Hey, you should not have done that." If you don't, then you are probably not a child of God. Amen!

Listen. When He is on the inside, we can't live in open rebellion against Him. We can't live in sin and expect Him not to chastise us and correct us. Do you know what the Lord will never do? He will never correct the devil's children. Amen! He will correct His own children.

I don't correct my neighbor's children. That is not my job. That is not your job either. Do you know what God does? He does correct His children.

If you are here and unsaved, if you would like to come and pray then come and pray. If you are listening to me wherever you are at...find a safe place to pray. Get on your face before Almighty God and say, "Lord, please forgive me. I'm a sinner. Please forgive me." Do you know what I know He will do? He will forgive you tonight. He will cleanse you tonight. He will save you tonight. He will fill you with His presence. He is something that you are going to need. You are going to need Him one day. That day may be a whole lot closer than you think. Come.

Come and pray—