

Matt 25 -- The right way to get married

1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, who took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. This refers to an ancient custom for weddings. The first step is the man decides who he wants to marry and goes to the father with the proposal. He then checks with his daughter to see if she is willing to marry this man. If she is the man pays a price for the daughter and they have a marriage contract, they are engaged. This is very similar to our experience. Each one of us had to accept the gospel ourselves, no one could force it upon us. Also, the Lord paid the price for us by giving His life and redeeming us from sin. Then the man has two years to go and prepare a house for them to live in and during that time the bride is to prepare the things she'll need. She can use the money that her bridegroom paid for her. In the same way the Lord has given us His word, His spirit, the fellowship of the saints, and the church. Then the bridegroom will come back secretly and steal the bride. This just makes things much more exciting. He might come in the middle of the night, he might come when the father is at work. But once he steals her his friends begin blowing trumpets and announcing that the Bridegroom has come. This depicts the rapture of the saints at the end of this age. I think many of us are worried, are we ready? Remember, the Lord will be coming as the Bridegroom, He is going to be in a very good mood, and He is coming for all those He has redeemed. Every single one. The Bible doesn't say that some are left out of the feast because He rejected them but because they were foolish and didn't watch. 2 And five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 For the foolish, when they took their lamps, took no oil with them: 4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. So what should we be doing? Filling our vessels with oil. That means going into the Bible in prayer. For your lamp to be lit you need to be speaking and sharing with others. Think how great this type of wedding is. It is fun. It is exciting. It

is a little rebellious. There was two years of anticipation. And it is a big deal for the entire community. If the man has spent two years building a house in the community you know they aren't going somewhere else after they get married. The bride doesn't have to give up all her friends and relatives to get married, she gets to stay in the community where she grew up. Today no one wants to go to a wedding where two years later you learn they got divorced. Also, This man's friends and this woman's friends will spend seven days celebrating the wedding. They all grew up together and they are expecting to live in the same community for the rest of their lives, so you want to make this an event you can remember for the next 50 years. This is a great event for everyone in this village. They didn't force everyone to fly to Bermuda for the wedding, they have invested in the town, they have put down roots, and the celebration is about people, not beaches and resorts. If you go to one of these areas where a forest fire has just burned thru it is a scene of total destruction. But come back in six months and you will see little plants budding and flowering. That is such a hopeful sight, you are seeing restoration and renewal. That is what this wedding is, the budding and flowering of a plant that is putting down roots and renewing the community. Their marriage is not some narcissistic exercise of fleshly gratification, it is something the entire community can rejoice in. [5 Now while the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.](#) There are two stories here about the rapture, one has ten people, the other two. Combined they are twelve, a complete number for eternity, and you see those who have died (fallen asleep) and those who are still alive at the Lord's coming. [6 But at midnight there is a cry, Behold, the bridegroom! Come ye forth to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are going out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, Peradventure there will not be enough for us and you: go ye rather to them that sell, and buy](#)

for yourselves. Wow, I love this. The virgins who had vessels filled with oil were still worried there might not be enough for them. I don't believe anyone seeing the day approaching is not nervous. I remember times when there were big exams, big tests, sometimes I would have to stand in front of a thousand people or more to speak. There is that worry, did I do enough? I learned this attitude: "I have been preparing and I am going to lay it all down on the line, if it isn't enough at least I know I gave it my all". 10 And while they went away to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage feast: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. That is the crux of what it means to fill your vessel with oil. Do you know the Lord? If you know Him, if you spend time with Him everyday then you can be sure He knows you. If when He speaks you listen and obey, then surely He knows you. Jesus is the incarnated word, when you spend time in His word in prayer you are spending time with Him. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know not the day nor the hour. This is an interesting expression to the Jews. No one knows the day or the hour that the Festival of Trumpets begins. The rabbis have to watch and when the moon is exactly right then they can blow the trumpets. If this meant "no one can know the day or the hour" then why tell us to "watch therefore"? The rabbis are told to "watch therefore" because they don't know beforehand the exact day or hour that the festival will begin. This makes much more sense than our concept that it is pointless to watch because no one knows the day or the hour. That is the foolish virgin approach to the Bible. 14 For it is as when a man, going into another country, called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his several ability; and he went on his journey. Again, He is telling us about the rapture, but from a different angle. Jesus has delivered

the word to us, His spirit to us, the church and the saints to us. It is our job to build up the heavenly economy while He is gone. 16 Straightway he that received the five talents went and traded with them, and made other five talents. 17 In like manner he also that *received* the two gained other two. 18 But he that received the one went away and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. Again, many of us are nervous about the Lord's coming, will He be happy with what I have done. Did you hide your talent? He is not going to be happy about that. But just because you aren't some "great evangelist" doesn't mean you haven't invested your talent. He seems quite happy with everyone who did invest, it is just the guy who hid the talent that He is not happy with. 19 Now after a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and maketh a reckoning with them. 20 And he that received the five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: lo, I have gained other five talents. 21 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 22 And he also that *received* the two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: lo, I have gained other two talents. 23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Enter into the joy of the Lord. The Lord's return is joyful for some. I tell all my students that the exam is "an opportunity for them to shine". It is a running joke with foolish virgins that people hate exams, it isn't true. I have students who get 100 on exams, they don't hate them. 24 And he also that had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou didst not sow, and gathering where thou didst not scatter; 25 and I was afraid, and went away and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, thou hast thine own. Quick question, this doesn't seem to be my experience, I have had

times when I felt I should speak but didn't. I have had experiences where I was afraid to share my experience. Never once was it because I thought "oh the Lord is a hard man reaping where He doesn't sow". Either this guy is very different from me, or else he isn't being honest. I suspect he fashioned what he thought would be a clever explanation for why he had done nothing as he saw all the other saints sharing their experiences. Bad strategy, lying to the Lord. If you were truly scared of the Lord you would be way too scared to lie. 26 But his lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I did not scatter; 27 thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the bankers, and at my coming I should have received back mine own with interest. If he had simply done nothing he would have been slothful but not wicked. Fabricating a lie to justify his action indicates he was also wicked. Then the Lord hits the real objection, I was afraid of man. If you were afraid of man then share with the saints, they welcome all testimonies. I used to be a stock broker and you can do much better with wise investing in the market, but at the same time I can understand someone who is scared to do that. There are guaranteed investments with banks, easy peasy. 28 Take ye away therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him that hath the ten talents. 29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not, even that which he hath shall be taken away. Wow, this guy thought he had nothing and yet what he did have the Lord and all the saints want. Too bad he didn't appreciate what he had. 30 And cast ye out the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness: there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth. This is where it gets confusing. What does this mean? I suspect there have been a lot of erroneous theories posited on this. Things like purgatory and indulgences. All I know is if the Lord comes tomorrow and I am left out in the dark I will be weeping and gnashing my teeth. I'll have 1,260 days to

turn things around. 31 But when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory: 32 and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats; 33 and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. This is something else. We are now talking about the Great White Throne of Judgement. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; 36 naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Christians inherit Jesus Christ, He is eternal, the world was created through Him and for Him. The kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world refers to the created world. Also, we inherit our inheritance because of Christ's righteousness, not ours. We are justified by faith, not by the works we have done. This is not referring to believers, it is referring to good, moral, considerate people. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee? or athirst, and gave thee drink? 38 And when saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 And when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, *even* these least, ye did it unto me. They never believed in Christ and yet they were caring for Him. 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I was hungry, and ye did not give me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer, saying, Lord, when

saw we thee hungry, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of these least, ye did it not unto me. 46 And these shall go away into eternal punishment: but the righteous into eternal life. You really see this on the road. People who think they are anonymous will behave reprehensibly because they think no one knows what they are doing. They are not accountable for their actions, they will deny the truth and hide the evidence. But in the end there will be a day of reckoning.