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Owasso First Assembly of God

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## **Ready or Not**

**Good Samaritan:** A neighbor takes action to help someone in need.

**The unforgiving servant:** An unforgiving spirit makes a mockery of God's grace.

**The tax collector and the publican:** Pride and hypocrisy destroys relationship.

**The Sower the seed, and the soil:** You must be receptive to what God is planting in your life

**Wealth Management:** We will all be judged on what we did with what we had

**Foolish Farmer:** A selfish life will end in tragedy

**The Loving Father:** God delights when the lost is found

1. This is the last series of parables of Jesus just before His **crucifixion.**

2. This is one in a series of **three** that speak about preparation for the coming of Jesus in Matthew 25. Matthew 24 also speaks of the need for preparation in light of His return.
3. The main focus of this parable is to stress the importance of being **alert** and prepared.

## 1. The women were immediately divided into two categories

Matthew 25:1-13 (NLT2) <sup>1</sup> *“The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were **foolish**, and five were **wise**. <sup>3</sup> The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, <sup>4</sup> but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. <sup>5</sup> When the bridegroom was delayed, they **ALL** became drowsy and fell asleep.*

1. They were all provided with **opportunity**.
2. They all were **participating** in the process.
3. They all had **excitement** about the event.
4. They all thought they would be **included** in the celebration.
5. 5 bridesmaids were **wise** and 5 were **foolish**. Their difference was almost **imperceptible**.

5 had a little oil and 5 brought extra.

6. They **ALL** slept. **1 Corinthians 10:12 (NLT2)** *If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.*

## 2. Their differences were immediately revealed at the moment of truth

<sup>6</sup> ***“At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’*** <sup>7</sup> *“All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. <sup>8</sup> Then **the five foolish ones asked the others**, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> “But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> “But **while they were gone** to buy oil, **the bridegroom came**. Then **those who were ready went in with him** to the marriage feast, and **the door was locked**.*

1. They were caught **off guard** with the shout announcing the groom’s arrival. It was **sudden** and **unexpected**.

2. They **all** began to prepare their lamps.

3. The foolish bridesmaids quickly realized **they didn’t have enough oil**.

***How tragic to run out of gas on the final lap of the race.***

4. Being prepared is **non-transferable**.

**Romans 14:12 (NLT2)** *Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God.*

5. Lost opportunities are often lost forever. “I’ll do it later” is the favorite phrase of the devil.

### 3. Their destiny was sealed forever

<sup>11</sup> *Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’* <sup>12</sup> *“But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’* <sup>13</sup> ***“So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.*”**

1. The five foolish bridesmaids assumed they could always come back.

2. They verbally expressed their commitment to the groom as Lord.

3. They were denied entrance because of their lack of preparation.

4. We are warned to stay alert and be prepared because we don’t know when Jesus will return.

**God deserves and requires  
maximum commitment  
not minimum requirements.**