The Ten Virgins
Matt. 25:1-13

Introduction:
   A. Eastern weddings were major social events.
      1. Furnished Jesus many illustrations and analogies.
      2. Ten virgins were invited guests waiting to be escorted in by bridegroom.
   B. The parable teaches some great lessons of three great subjects:

Discussion:
I. The Subject of Preparation.
   A. Abundant preparation versus skimpy preparation (v. 3-4).
      1. Danger in “just enough to get by” attitude.
      2. New Testament emphasizes abundant service (1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Cor. 8:7; 2 Pet. 1:18).
   B. Constant preparation versus intermittent preparation.
      1. Many practice religion in spurts.
      2. Must always be prepared (cf. 1 Cor. 15:58 Lk. 21:33-36).

II. The Subject of Procrastination.
   A. Danger of putting preparation off.
      1. Foolish virgins should have used time of slumbering and sleeping (v. 5).
      2. Foolish virgins should not have waited to buy oil (v. 10).
   B. Danger of thinking “there is plenty of time yet”.
      1. Young often think so — will prepare when older (cf. Eccl. 12:1).
      2. Worldly often think so — will prepare after enjoyed all pleasure of sin.
      3. Busy often think so — will prepare when get time (cf. Acts 24:25)
   C. Danger of procrastination is three-fold.
      1. The lord (or death) could come at any moment (v. 13).
      2. The baggage accumulated by sin.
      3. The hardened effect of sin (Heb. 3:13)

III. The Subject of Personal Accountability.
   A. Foolish could not borrow from wise — wise had not to spare for foolish (v. 6-9).
   B. Each must obey and prepare for himself. (Gal. 6:4-5; 2 Cor. 5:10).
      1. Paul could not be saved his relatives (Rom. 9:3)
      2. Parents cannot prepare for children — vise versa.
      3. Preachers cannot prepare for congregation — vise versa.

Conclusion:
   A. Are you a wise or foolish preparer for the judgement?
   B. Are you planning to get ready someday?
   C. Are you planning to get by on someone’s oil?