

Matthew 25 : 1-13—Memory Verses, 1, 2.

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



1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

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

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

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

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

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh ; go ye out 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 gone out.

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.

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.

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.

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

### THE LESSON RETOLD

Afterwards, Jesus left the temple, and went out to the Mount of Olives, where He talked to His disciples of His coming again, and of the end of the world. He said that these things would happen suddenly, when people least expected them, for only His Father in heaven knew the exact time; and so He warned His disciples not to be careless and sinful, but to watch and be ready, that, whenever He came, they might be found worthy to enter His kingdom.

Then, to make them understand more plainly what He meant, Jesus told them a parable of an Eastern wedding, where at night a procession goes out to meet the bridegroom, as he brought the bride from her father's house.

"There were ten young maidens," He said, "who went out to meet the bridegroom, and they took lamps with them to light his path. Five of these maidens were foolish, and neglected to take oil with them to refill

the lamps when they had burned out. But the other five were wise, and took oil flasks as well as their lamps. All these ten went from their homes, and waited in a house by the way, to be ready to escort the bridegroom when he passed by.

But he delayed so long that they all grew tired and fell asleep; and at midnight they were suddenly roused by the cry, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him !" Then, as they all arose and trimmed their lamps to have them ready, the foolish ones found that theirs were going out, and that they had no more oil to fill them up.

They begged the wise ones to give them some oil; but these refused, saying, that, if they did so, they would not have enough for themselves. "Go to the sellers, and buy some," they said.

But while they were away buying it, the bridegroom came, and the five maidens who were ready joined the procession and went