

GOLDEN TEXT
Matt. 25: 13. Watch therefore: for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

DAILY READINGS
 M. — Matt. 25: 1-13. Parable of the ten virgins.
 T. — Matt. 24: 42-51. Watch!
 W. — Luke 12: 31-40. Be ye ready!
 Th. — Luke 13: 22-30. Shut out.
 F. — Matt. 7: 15-23. Hypocrites rejected.
 S. — 2 Peter 3: 8-14. Looking and waiting.
 S. — Rev. 3: 1-6. White raiment.

CATECHISM
 Q. 81. What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment forbiddeth the omission or careless performance of the duties

required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words or works, about our worldly employments, or recreations.

TIME AND PLACE

Following close upon the last lesson, Tuesday afternoon, April 4, and on the Mount of Olives, overlooking Jerusalem.

LESSON PLAN

I. The Wait, *pg. 1-5.*
 The ten virgins await the coming of the bridegroom.

II. The Arrival, *6-10 (a).*
 His coming finds five ready and five unread.

III. The Door Shut, *10 (b)-13.*
 Those ready shut in, those unread shut out.

LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 88; 65 (Ps. Sel.); 589; 248, 88; 116.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—1 What is the topic of the lesson? What is a parable? When did Jesus speak this parable? For what purpose? How many virgins were there? Where did they go? What did they carry?

2-4 How are the virgins classified? What was the mistake of the foolish virgins? How were the wise virgins prepared?

5, 6 For whom were they waiting? When did he come? What cry heard? Who is meant by the bridegroom? What by his coming? The wise virgins? The foolish?

7-9 What do all do? What do the foolish virgins say? Why? What answer? Why was it not selfish?

10-13 What happened while the foolish virgins were gone? Who went in with him? What about the doors? What request made? How answered? Why is watching necessary? (1 Cor. 10: 12; 1 Thess. 5: 2, 4.)

Seniors and the Home Department—1 Why did Jesus speak in parables? Of the forty parables of our Lord, how many are recorded in one gospel only? How many in two? How many in three? On what custom is this parable based?

2-4 Describe an Oriental lamp. What does oil stand for in the parable? Was there any visible difference in the virgins when they set out? Why were the wise so thoughtful? What mistake made by the servant in Matt. 24: 48? How are foolish virgins spoken of in Mark 13: 5, 8? How further represented? (Luke 14: 28-32.)

5, 6 What is signified by "midnight?" What is the duty and privilege of Christ's friends when He shall come? (Luke 12: 35-40.)

7-9 How do the wise virgins act towards the foolish

ones? Is their conduct to be blamed? Why cannot one provide "oil" for another?

10-12 What is meant by the shutting of the door? What did it signify to those who had gone in? To those who were outside? Is there any harshness? What is the great lesson of the parable?

Prove from Scripture—That we should be ready for Christ's coming.

Practical Points—1. Religion can be no gloomy thing when the Kingdom of God is like a marriage feast.

2. Sad it is, but true, that "all is not gold that glitters." It is one thing to profess to be followers of the Lord Jesus. It is another thing to have new and Christ-like hearts.

3. It is wisdom, highest wisdom, to be ready to meet our Lord, when He comes. It is folly, infinite folly, not to be ready; for the occasion comes only once and to miss it is to lose all and forever.

4. The whole ten "slept"—waited quietly; but there is an eternity of difference between the quiet of mind that comes from true preparation of heart, and the quiet of a dead conscience.

5. Like the struggles of night-mare will the efforts be of those who are not prepared, when their Lord comes; but, alas! it will be no night-mare, but a dreadful reality.

6. Much depends on which side of a shut door one is on. To be shut out from the marriage feast, from all the joy and glory of Christ's presence in heaven, is one thing. To be shut in with Him and with the hosts of the glorified, is another.

7. Which shall it be for *me*—shut out, or shut in, when my Lord comes in His heavenly glory?

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Who are meant by the five wise virgins?

2. The five foolish virgins?

3. What is the great lesson of the parable?