

Lesson V.

PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

February 3, 1901

Matt. 25 : 1-13—Memory Verses, 10-13

Golden Text—Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.—Matt. 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

As the day for Jesus to die was getting nearer, He often spoke to His friends about the time when He should come again from Heaven as King and Judge of all the world.

He said : "No man can know the day nor the time of year when I shall come ; nor the hour. It may be at even or at midnight or at day-dawn or in the morning." So, to show that His friends must be on the watch and ready to meet Him at any moment, Jesus told this story.

There were once ten maidens who set out to join a wedding-party. The night was dark and they took their lamps with them. Five of them were wise, and five of them were foolish. The foolish ones did not wait

to fill their lamps with oil before starting, but the wiser ones took oil along with them in case of need.

Now the bridegroom kept them waiting a long time, and the maidens began to feel drowsy. Before long they fell fast asleep, with their lamps still flickering. Suddenly, in the middle of the night they were awakened by a shout : "The bridegroom is coming ! Get ready to meet him !" Then the maidens sprang up quickly and began to trim the wicks of their lamps.

"Dear me ! Our lamps are going out," said the foolish girls who had brought no extra oil. "Will you lend us some ?" they said to their wiser companions. But these