

street began to call, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh!"

The maidens rose, and began to trim their lamps, that they might go forth with lights and songs to meet the bridegroom and go with him to the marriage feast. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out." But the wise maidens answered: "No, no! there will not be enough for us all. Go and buy for yourselves." Then the foolish maidens began to rush about hither and thither trying to get a supply of oil. But it was midnight, and all the places for selling oil would be shut.

While the foolish maidens were trying to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast and the door was shut. Not long afterwards the other maidens came and cried, "Lord, Lord, open to us!" But he answered, "I know you not," and the foolish maidens were kept away from the feast, all because they had not provided themselves with oil for their lamps.

How sorry they would be that they had not followed the example of their wise companions and provided themselves with a sufficient supply of oil!

When Jesus finished His story He said, "I want you to be ready for all the joys which the heavenly Father is preparing for you." And because we do not know the time when Jesus will come to take us to heaven, we should be ready all the time. Then when He does come, how glad we shall be. For He will take us to be with Himself forever and ever.

Questions on the Lesson

1. About what did Jesus tell a story? 2. How many of the bride's friends are mentioned? 3. How would it be known when the bridegroom was coming? 4. What did the friends of the bride do? 5. What did they take with them? 6. Why did they do this? 7. How many of the maidens were wise? 8. How did they show their wisdom? 9. How many were foolish? 10. How did they show their folly? 11. At what time did the bridegroom come? 12. Who went in to the marriage feast? 13. Who were shut out? 14. For what does Jesus want us to be ready? 15. What is the Golden Text?

Lesson Hymn

Hark! 'tis the watchman's cry,
Wake, brethren, wake!
Jesus our Lord is nigh;
Wake, brethren, wake.
Sleep is for sons of night;
Ye are children of the light,
Yours is the glory bright;
Wake, brethren, wake! Amen.
—Hymn 83, Book of Praise

The Catechism

PRIMARY CATECHISM—113. Who should go to the Lord's Supper? Those only should go to the Lord's Supper who love Jesus Christ and try to follow Him daily.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Review Questions 1-20.

The Question on Missions

11. What becomes of the children thus neglected? In very many cases they become worse than their parents. Their own religion has but little hold on them, and Christianity has none at all.

AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Copy this drawing of an Eastern lamp, and remember, that just as the wise virgins were



ready, with their lamps burning and having plenty of oil, for the bridegroom's coming, so we should be ready for the coming of Jesus at whatever time it may be.

I Have Learned To-day That

I SHOULD BE READY FOR JESUS' COMING