

Lesson XI.

THE TEN VIRGINS

September 13, 1914

Matthew 25 : 1-13—Memory Verses, 1-4.

Golden Text—Watch therefore, for ye know not the day nor the hour.—Matthew 25 : 13 (Rev. Ver.).



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

Jesus once told a story about a wedding party. Ten maidens, the bride's friends, helped her to make ready for it.

By and by all was prepared. The bride was clothed in her best robe. The house was in order, the feast on the tables. Everything was in readiness for the bridegroom and his friends to come.

No one knew just when the bridegroom would come. Some time in the night the lights of torches would be seen, and the sounds of singing would be heard. Every one then would know that he was near at hand.

The ten friends of the bride went out to meet the bridegroom coming with his friends. They had lamps to light them through the dark streets.

Five of the maidens were wise, for they had not only filled their lamps with oil, but, besides, had taken an extra supply of oil with them in vessels, so that if the bridegroom should

be so long in coming and the oil in their lamps would be used up, they would have plenty with which to refill them. They were quite ready for the bridegroom whether he should come at once or whether they should have to wait a long time for his coming. But five of the maidens were foolish, for, though they had oil in their lamps, they had neglected to take any in vessels to fill their lamps should these become empty. If the bridegroom should be long in coming, the five foolish maidens would be in danger of having no oil for their lamps. Presently, as the maidens waited, they all fell fast asleep.

They slept soundly, for the hour was late and they were very tired. They had no fear of not waking up when the bridegroom was coming, for they knew that the shouts and cries of the company with him would rouse them from their slumbers. So they slept and slept in peace and confidence.

When midnight came, the people in the