

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



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Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Tuesday, December 1,

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## The Wise And The Foolish

### **Matthew 25:1-13,**

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 Context:**

When studying the Scriptures it is always necessary to determine the circumstances that form the setting for the portion we are studying. The context is revealed in Matthew 24, where we find that Jesus was talking only to

His disciples. They were obviously teachable, which is a rare thing to find among Christians today. The focus of His message had to do with the end of the age, and He used a wedding as an example.

### **Unusual Attention On Invited Guests**

The focus of all weddings today is on the wedding party; however, in this story the focus is on the guests who were invited to the wedding.

### **Ten Virgins**

Scripturally, virgins are a type of those who are spiritually undefiled. In this story all ten were good living people, they were all expecting to be at the wedding; however, half of them were headed for Hell.

### **They All Slumbered And Slept**

Verse five tells us that “*they all slumbered and slept.*” To “slumber” is to nod off, which is a condition of being half asleep and half awake. To “sleep” is to lie down with the intent of sleeping.

### **Beginning The Wedding At Midnight?**

We read in verse six that the bridegroom was announced at midnight which is an unusual time for a wedding ceremony to begin.

## It Was A Wake Up Call For Everyone

Verse seven says, "Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps;" however, five of them had no oil in their lamps. They attempted to get oil from the other five but the oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not ours to give. Verse nine says the five said, "not so," they must buy for themselves.

### "Buy Without Price"

Fortunately we can receive the Holy Spirit "without money and without price" (Isaiah 55:1).

### "They That Were Ready"

Verse ten tells us that while they were away looking for oil "the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut."

### "Lord, Lord, Open To Us."

Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, **Lord, Lord**, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

Jesus said, "Many will say to me in that day, **Lord, Lord**, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (Matthew 7:22).

### **Luke 13:25-28,**

"When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, **Lord, Lord**, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are."

### "But We Went Soul-winning!"

"Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast **taught in our streets**. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

*There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, **and you yourselves thrust out.**"*

### The Five Foolish Were Not Outwardly Distinguishable From The Wise Virgins.

They all looked and acted like they really believed in God; however, half of them went to Hell. It is a concerning thing to think of how many people in our churches have been duped into thinking they are saved because they prayed a little forgiveness prayer, minus repentance.

### How Can I Know I Am Saved?

First John 5:13 says, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life." If you want to know if you are saved I don't have a one-liner sentence to help you out. You will have to study the first five chapters of First John to find out what "these thing" are.

The Bible says, "The Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual...the things of the Spirit of God...are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things."

We live in an age where everyone wants it done my way, right away. Well, there are no shortcuts with God. Fourteen times David prayed saying "teach me." If you want to know if you are saved, get in the Word of God and let the Word of God get in you.

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