

Rex Tremendae Majestatis

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

² Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.

³ Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,

⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

⁶ And at midnight a cry was *heard*: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’

⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘*No*, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’

¹⁰ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’

¹² But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

¹³ ‘Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.’”

Rex Tremendae Majestatis!

(video / audio)

Do you know Him?

Rex!

(King!)

Rex Tremendae Majestatis

Tremendae!

(of tremendous!)

Majestatis!

(majesty!)

Rex Tremendae Majestatis!

(King of tremendous majesty!)

Qui salvandos salvas gratis!

(Who freely saves the redeemed!)

Salve me!

(Save me!)

Fons pietatis

(Fountain of mercy!)

The parable of the ten virgins is about a kingdom ... the Kingdom of Heaven!

The parable of the ten virgins is about a kingdom's king ... the King of tremendous majesty!

The message today is entitled Rex Tremendae Majestatis, and the two questions to be answered are:

Do you know Him?

How do you know that you know Him?

The Temple

The context FOR the parable of the ten virgins is a conversation that took place --- between Jesus and His disciples a few days prior to His crucifixion --- about the temple in Jerusalem:

Rex Tremendae Majestatis

“Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple (Matthew 24:1).”

“Some spoke of the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and donations (Luke 21:5).”

Jesus’ disciples were with Him in the temple, likely listening to Him teach, pray, and minister to those therein. And after they left, what was on their mind?

The beauty of the Jerusalem temple.

The beauty of the temple!

“And Jesus said to them, ‘Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down (Matthew 24:2).’”

Jesus came to teach, and in this instance, He was teaching His disciples that (1) not only were their minds focused on the wrong thing, but (2) the object of their focus would soon be destroyed. This brings us to our two questions for today:

Do you know Him?

How do you know that you know Him?

If you know the King, then you’re captivated His majesty,
not the apparent beauty of something temporal and perishable.

It’s as if Jesus was saying:

“You’re focused on the beauty of carved rocks! You fools! You should be captivated by the majesty of the Lord God of Israel!”

If you know Jesus, you’ll know that you know Him, for you’ll be enraptured by His majesty and not by the things of this world. For example, listen to Solomon’s prayer of dedication of the first temple (1 Kings 8:23-27):

²³LORD God of Israel, *there is* no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep *Your* covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.

²⁴ You have kept what You promised Your servant David my father; You have both spoken with Your mouth and fulfilled *it* with Your hand, as *it is* this day.

Rex Tremendae Majestatis

²⁵ Therefore, LORD God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, ‘You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk before Me as you have walked before Me.’

²⁶ And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father.

²⁷ “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!”

A millennium before Jesus was crucified, Solomon understood. God’s people shouldn’t have been captivated by His temple, they should’ve and should be captivated by:

God!

His word!

His promises!

His tremendous majesty!

Solomon understood, at least for a time. For he eventually became captivated with earthly things and fell into much vanity and sin (see Ecclesiastes!). But Jesus’ disciples didn’t understand, at least, not then. Therefore:

Three Questions

After Jesus made this prediction about the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew (Mark 13:3) privately asked Him three important questions (Matthew 24:3):

“Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’”

1. When will these things be?
2. What will be the sign of Your coming?
3. What will be the sign of the end of the age?

The discourse leading up to and including the Parable of the Ten Virgins is Jesus’ answer to these three questions.

The Kingdom of Heaven

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ...”

The kingdom of heaven, also called the kingdom of God, is a “concept” discussed throughout Scripture. It’s real, and it has been progressively unfolding throughout human history. God began to prepare it “from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34). It was first clearly manifest with ...

The Kingdom of Israel

God chose the people of Israel to be a kingdom of priests; e.g., this is what He instructed Moses to say to them in ca. 1400 B.C. (Exodus 19:4-6a):

“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

It was God’s desire for Israel to be God’s representative kingdom on earth. But there was a catch: it required the Israelites to “obey (His) voice and keep (His) covenant.” And they habitually failed to do so. In fact, during the time of the prophet Samuel, ca. 1020 B.C., the Israelites explicitly rejected God as their King (1 Samuel 8:4-7):

“Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, ‘Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.’ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, ‘Give us a king to judge us.’ So Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.’”

The people of Israel rejected the kingdom of God and its King. The situation in the kingdom of Israel quickly deteriorated after that:

~930 B.C. – After the death of Solomon, Israel was divided into the northern ten tribes (Israel) and the lower two tribes (Judah). And what did the Lord say about division (Mark 3:25)?

Rex Tremendae Majestatis

“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”

~**722 B.C.** – Israel (the northern ten tribes) was conquered by Assyria and virtually vanquished from the land.

~**586 B.C.** – Judah (the southern two tribes) was conquered by Babylonia ; Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed.

The date was the “9th of Av,” the 5th month of the Hebrew religious calendar, corresponding to July or August (depending on the year). Jerusalem and the temple were eventually rebuilt, starting with Nehemiah and Ezra in ca. 446 B.C., and culminating with Herod the Great in ca. 28 A.D. (although minor work continued after that time). However, during the First Jewish Roman War in 70 A.D., on the “9th of Av,” the 656th anniversary of the destruction of Solomon’s temple, Roman legions under the command of Titus destroyed Jerusalem and the temple, carrying off its treasures, which were used for other construction projects, including that of the Roman coliseum. This great victory, from the perspective of the Romans, was commemorated with the Arch of Titus:



Since that time, Tisha B’Av, the 9th of Av, has been observed by Jews as a day of fasting and mourning. Jesus’ prophecy to Peter, James, John and Andrew was fulfilled. **When will these things be?** By 70 A.D., ca. 40 years after Jesus’ prophecy, the kingdom of Israel and its temple were no more.

Rex Tremendae Majestatis

Do you know Him?

How do you know that you know Him?

If you know Jesus, then you believe that God is a just Judge, and that “He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained (Acts 17:31).”

The Current Kingdom

God was not surprised by Israel’s rejection of Him as King, which is why He revealed long ago His intent to set up an eternal kingdom. For example, listen to the vision revealed to the prophet Daniel in *ca.* 556 B.C. (Daniel 7:13-14):

“I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, *One* like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.
Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.
His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion,
Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom *the one*
Which shall not be destroyed.”

At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry on earth, He said that the kingdom of God was “at hand (Mark 1:14-15);” its arrival was imminent! Near the end of Jesus’ ministry on earth, a few days prior to his sharing of the parable of the ten virgins, He rode into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey as the King of Peace. A few days later, Jesus was arrested, beaten, scourged, mocked, and crucified, with the following “accusation” nailed to the cross above His head : “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Through Jesus Christ, the seed of David, the chief cornerstone, the current kingdom of God has been established. And just where is this kingdom of God? It is both within and among those who believe (Luke 17:21).

Do you know Him?

How do you know that you know Him?

Through faith in Jesus Christ as the crucified and risen Savior and King, God has “delivered (you) from the power of darkness and conveyed (you) into the (current) kingdom of the Son of His love (Colossians 1:13).”

But there is another kingdom coming.

Then

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ...”

Then? When? In context, at the second coming of Christ:

“For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will **the coming of the Son of Man** be.” Matthew 24:27

“They will see **the Son of Man coming** on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30b

“But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will **the coming of the Son of Man** be. Matthew 24:37

“Therefore you also be ready, for **the Son of Man is coming**.” Matthew 24:44a

It’s amazing that these relatively clueless disciples, who were physically present with Jesus as they asked him these three questions, had the insight to ask Him (Matthew 24:3):

“what *will be* the sign of Your coming?”

Jesus was with them. But somehow, by the grace of God, they knew that He would be leaving and coming back.

Do you know Him?

How do you know that you know Him?

If you know Jesus, then you believe in, and long for, His imminent return.

When Jesus returns, He’ll be preparing the way for the millennial kingdom (Revelation 20:4-6). And what will it be like when He returns? Let’s return to the parable.

The Context OF the Parable

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.”

The kingdom of heaven at the time of the second coming of Christ will be like the time before a 1st century Jewish marriage feast. This is the context OF the parable. In ancient Israel, there were several key elements to marriage that occurred prior to the marriage feast, including:¹

- Shiddukhin (Election)
- Ketubah (Marriage Contract)
- Mohar (Bridal Payment)
- Mikveh (Ritual Immersion)
- Eyrusin (Betrothal)

Shiddukhin (Election)

This was the choice of the bride for the bridegroom by the Father of the bridegroom.

- Election

“And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened (Matthew 24:22).”

Elect means “chosen.” The Father has chosen a bride for the Bridegroom. As Jesus has said (John 6:44a):

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.”

- Jesus is the Bridegroom

The image of God as the bridegroom is prevalent throughout Scripture. For example (Isaiah 62:5):

¹ <http://messianicfellowship.50webs.com/wedding.html>

“For *as* a young man marries a virgin,
So shall your sons marry you;
And *as* the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
So shall your God rejoice over you.”

Elsewhere, speaking of Jesus, John the Baptist said (John 3:29a):

“He who has the bride, is the bridegroom.”

Jesus in this parable is represented by the coming bridegroom.

- **The Church is the Bride**

As the apostle Paul has written (2 Corinthians 11:2b):

“For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”

The ten virgins in this parable represent the church.

Ketubah (Marriage Contract)

Two days after Jesus shared this parable (Matthew 26:1-2), on the night that He was betrayed, He initiated an irrevocable marriage contract between the bride and Bridegroom (Luke 22:19-20):

“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, ‘This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ Likewise He also *took* the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup *is* the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.’”

The new covenant is the Church’s marriage contract.

Mohar (Bridal Payment)

It was customary for the bridegroom to offer a bridal payment to the father of the bride. Likewise, in less than one day after Jesus initiated the marriage contract, Jesus made a bridal payment to the Father. As it is written (1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Peter 1:19a):

“You were bought at a price ... with the precious blood of Christ.”

Mikveh (Ritual Immersion)

Mikveh means “pool of water.” Prior to marriage, it was customary for the bride to be baptized as a sign of her purity before God and the bridegroom. Likewise (1 Corinthians 12:13):

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Since making the bridal payment, Jesus’ bride has been made clean by grace through faith and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Eyrusin (Betrothal)

Betrothal was an extended period of time, one or more years, in which the bride and bridegroom would be separated from each other so that they would be prepared to consummate the marriage covenant. One key aspect of the betrothal period was that the bridegroom would leave to go and prepare a place for his wife, most often in his father’s house. Likewise, a few days after sharing this parable, Jesus said to His disciples (John 14:1-3):

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.”

Beloved, the Church is currently in the age of Betrothal. Jesus (figuratively speaking) left; but He is coming back. And when the Bridegroom returns for His bride, what will He find? Ten virgins.

Interim Summary

The Context FOR the Parable

Jesus’ disciples were with Him in the temple, likely listening to Him teach, pray, and minister to those therein. And after they left, what was on their mind?

The beauty of the Jerusalem temple.

What should have been on their minds?

Rex Tremendae Majestatis!

So Jesus refocused these disciples and told them that their beautiful temple would be thoroughly destroyed, after which they asked Him three questions:

1. When will these things be?

2. What will be the sign of Your coming?
3. What will be the sign of the end of the age?

The temple was destroyed on the 9th of Av, on the 656th anniversary of the destruction of Solomon's temple. But Jesus' coming and the end of the age .. those are yet to come, and they're addressed by ..

The Context OF the Parable

Jesus told His disciples that the kingdom of heaven at the time of the second coming of Christ will be like the time before a marriage feast:

- **Shiddukhin (Election)**
 - Jesus' bride --- the Church --- will have been chosen.
- **Ketubah (Marriage Contract)**
 - The marriage contract --- the new covenant --- will be in effect.
- **Mohar (Bridal Payment)**
 - The bridal payment --- Jesus' atonement on the cross at Calvary --- will have been made.
- **Mikveh (Ritual Immersion)**
 - Members of the bride will have been sanctified by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- **Eyrusin (Betrothal)**
 - The preparation period for the return of the bridegroom will be at an end.

Jesus will return for His bride ... the Church ... and He will find ...

The church

¹ "Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

² Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish.

³ Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them,

⁴ but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps."

Let's unpack the imagery in these verses.

The church is represented by ten virgins; they have much in common:

- **They're Virgins !**

As the apostle Paul has written (2 Corinthians 11:2b):

"For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ."

This indicates their apparent purity or sanctification (the appearance of being set apart from the things of this world for God). The church will appear sanctified. The Church will be sanctified.

- **They're all Waiting for the Bridegroom !**

The church at the time of Jesus' coming will be expecting Him to return.

- **They're all Carrying Lamps !**

The lamp is symbolic of God's word --- Scripture. As it is written (Psalm 119:105):

"Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

The church will be filled with people who "carry" the Bible, and presumably know it.

Do you know Him?

How do you know that you know Him?

If you know Jesus, then His Word to you is the "joy and rejoicing" of your heart (Jeremiah 15:16a)!

All ten virgins had a lamp. But there's one key difference between them (Matthew 25:2):

"Five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish."

At the time of Jesus' coming, many people in the church will be foolish, and many --- those in the Church --- will be wise. And why will that be? Because (Matthew 25:3-4):

"Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps."

The foolish virgins "took no oil with them."

But that's not strictly correct. Reading on in the text:

⁵ But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

There's nothing wrong with that of course --- "the Lord gives His beloved rest (Psalm 127:2)!"

⁶ And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

The foolish virgins apparently had some oil to light their lamps for a little while, but they didn't have enough oil to endure the entire duration of the bridegroom's absence:

Matthew 25:7 They "trimmed their lamps."

Matthew 25:8 Their lamps were "going out."

The Amplified Bible accommodates this implication in Matthew 25:3:

"For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any [extra] oil with them."

The Oil

When Jesus returns for His bride, it will be all about the oil. But what does the oil represent?

From a practical perspective, the oil is the fuel in the lamp that makes it to function properly; the virgins require the oil for the lamp to be of benefit to them.

Therefore, if the lamp represents the Word of God, then, what is the fuel that makes it to function properly? What is required for the Word of God to be of benefit?

The Holy Spirit

"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)."

Properly understanding and doing the Word of God requires you to have the Holy Spirit within you; you must be born again!

Do you know Him?

How do you know that you know Him?

If you know Jesus, then you have been born again, baptized by His Holy Spirit!

So then ... what's the actual difference between the wise virgins --- who had enough oil --- and the foolish virgins --- who didn't have enough oil?

⁶ And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!'

⁷ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

The foolish virgins weren't prepared for the coming of the bridegroom; they didn't have enough oil, and they thought that they could get some from the wise virgins.

Do you know Him?

How do you know that you know Him?

If you know Jesus, then you are prepared for His coming;

you're not depending on someone else to prepare for you.

⁹ But the wise answered, saying, '*No*, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.'

Beloved, let's be clear: you cannot purchase or work to earn the Holy Spirit. Simon the Sorcerer thought that he could, but the apostle Peter rebuked him, saying (Acts 8:20-21):

"Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God."

You cannot earn or purchase the gift of the Holy Spirit. If you want it, you need to go directly to the source and ask Him for it in faith; He, by God's grace, is the gift of God!

The foolish virgins, however, thought that this last minute purchase of oil was a swell idea. The problem was that:

¹⁰ while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!'

¹² But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'"

It was too late. The marriage feast had begun, and the foolish virgins who weren't prepared --- who weren't ready for the arrival of the bridegroom weren't allowed in to celebrate. But didn't they have *some* oil? Why wasn't that enough? What's going on here?

The Perseverance of the Saints

Do you know Him?

How do you know that you know Him?

If you know Jesus, you'll persevere until the end.

Jesus Himself has said (John 8:31-32):

"If you **abide** in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

To abide means to actively remain in a state or relation ... to persist ... to persevere. As James the bondservant of Jesus has said (James 1:25):

"He who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues (persists ... perseveres) in it ... this one will be blessed in what he does."

The wise virgins will be prepared and persevere until the end, when the Bridegroom comes to consummate their marriage. But the foolish virgins won't be prepared; their lamps will have burned out, and they'll be excluded from the marriage feast. Possibly they will be like the thorny soil (Mark 4:16b-17):

"when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble."

They will have "tasted the heavenly gift ... become partakers of the Holy Spirit ... and have tasted the good word of God ... they will have once been enlightened (Hebrews 6:4-5);" yet their lives will be

characterized by a habitual neglect of the Word of God, and a noticeable lack of fruit. They will NOT have persevered. They will not be born again.

The Application

At the time of the second coming of Christ, there will be members of the church who aren't part of the Church, the bride of Christ. Today, there are members of the church who aren't part of the Church. Possibly they stay connected because of the Christian fellowship ... or Christian charity ... or the intellectual aspects of the theology or history ... or some other reason. But then, as it is today, there will be many people in the church who are merely whitewashed tombs. Therefore, what do we do? How do we respond to such teaching?

¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

Watch! For when the age of Betrothal ends, there will be no second chance! For on that day when Christ returns, He will come "in righteousness (to) judge and make war (Revelation 19:11b)... in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:8). And on that day many will shout out to Jesus, just like the foolish virgins, "Lord, Lord, open to us (Matthew 25:11)!" Yet Jesus has said (Matthew 7:21-23):

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

This is exactly what the bridegroom said to the foolish virgins in the parable:

¹² But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Jesus will leave them outside of the feast ... where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 24:51; 25:30)."

Therefore, watch! Watch!

Are you merely a member of the church? Do you merely look like a Christian --- you come to church, you go through the motions --- but you're spiritually DEAD? If this describes you, if you've yet to accept the gift of faith in Jesus as Savior and submit to Him as Lord, then this is the message for you:

"Lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls (James 1:21)."

Rex Tremendae Majestatis

“If your hand causes you to sin ... if your foot causes you to sin ... if your eye causes you to sin ... cut it off ... pluck it out ... for it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God maimed ... lame ... or with only one eye ... than to be cast into hell, where the worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:43-48).”

“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves (James 1:22).”

On the other hand, are you a member of the Church? Have you been saved and sanctified by the blood of the Lamb? Then rejoice, for you have eternal security! As Jesus has said (John 6:39):

“This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but raise it up at the last day.”

That said, bride of Christ, you are commanded to watch, i.e., to be like Ezekiel (see Ezekiel 33). Go out and tell the world that the Bridegroom cometh, and that “He treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (Revelation 19:15b), but that (Ezekiel 33:11):

“The Lord God (has) no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from His way and live.”

Conclusion

The parable of the ten virgins is about a kingdom, the kingdom of heaven!

The parable of the ten virgins is about a king, the Rex Tremendae Majestatis!

Do you know Him?

How do you know you know Him?

If you know Him ... if you're a member of the Church, His bride, then:

1. **You're captivated His majesty, not the apparent beauty of something temporal and perishable.**
2. **You believe that God is a just Judge, and that “He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained (Acts 17:31).”**
3. **Through faith in Jesus Christ as the crucified and risen Savior and King, God has “delivered (you) from the power of darkness and conveyed (you) into the (current) kingdom of the Son of His love (Colossians 1:13).”**
4. **You believe in, and long for, His imminent return.**

5. His Word to you is the “joy and rejoicing” of your heart (Jeremiah 15:16a)!
6. You have been born again, baptized by His Holy Spirit!
7. You’re prepared for His coming; you’re not depending on someone else to prepare for you.
8. You’ll persevere until the end.

As it is written (1 John 2:3-5):

“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

If you don’t know Him, e.g., if you’re only a member of the church, then (Deuteronomy 30:19-20a):

“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; ²⁰ that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days”

Surrender your life to the King of Tremendous Majesty, before it is too late!