



Study Guide – Sunday 2 May 2021

Please Read Matthew 25:1-13

This is a parable, a made-up story meant to teach a lesson but not meant to be an exact picture of what is going to happen.

1. In this story what are the girls waiting for? Talk about times when you have been waiting for something important. Does it make a difference to how you wait if you know or don't know when it is going to come?
2. Why do you think half of the lamps had enough oil, and the other half didn't? Are there situations you can think of where lack of preparation might be seen as foolish?
3. Late comers were locked out? Why might that be seen as reasonable behaviour?
4. How can we reconcile the facts that we are called to live in the Kingdom now, and also called to wait for the Kingdom coming? How can we do both of those things at the same time?
5. How often do we think about the fact that there is a time when the Kingdom will come into its own? Are we more likely to think that it is coming soon, or that it won't come in our time so there isn't much point in thinking about it? Are we consciously waiting and prepared?
6. What kind of preparations should we have made/ be making now that will make us ready when the Lord comes? Is it enough to concentrate on how we live now in order to 'lay up' treasure in heaven', or are there other kinds of 'oil' that we need to get hold of in order to be ready? How do we view the waiting time; as exciting, frustrating, enjoyable, annoying or something else?
7. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.** Paul tells us to encourage one another by talking about the Lord's coming. Do we do that, and if not, can we think of ways we might fit that into our joint interactions?
8. Jesus concludes his parable by saying, "Therefore keep watch?" Are we 'on watch'?