

N. Wilm. Bockrath Fellowship Group

July 11, 2003

Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV) – *The Parable of the Ten Virgins*

¹"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

⁷"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

⁹"No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

¹⁰"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹"Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

¹²"But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

¹³"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Questions for Discussion:

1. This parable contrasts two groups of people: five foolish and five wise virgins. Describe those things which they ALL have in common. Describe those things that distinguish them.
2. The oil plays a key role in this parable. What does it represent?
3. This parable reveals the immediacy by which the bridegroom will appear. How will the immediacy of Christ's coming affect people differently, even those in the church? In what ways has God "immediately" revealed himself in your life? How have you responded to "immediate" moments in your life?
4. It seems to be a shortcoming that the wise virgins did not share any oil with the foolish virgins. Should they have?