

Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew Questions:

- What sticks out to you?
- Are we ready for Jesus?
 - If Jesus were to come down from heaven and stand before you, would you be proud to show him your life (or your church)?
- Who in this story do you resonate with most: those with oil OR those without?
- Why do you think those with oil didn't share?
 - Should they have?
 - What does this say about us?
- How do we respond as churches and individuals when the midnight hour strikes?
 - Do we blame others for not sharing their "oil" or do we take responsibility and repent?
- Are we willing to share with others- forgiving their foolishness and embracing generosity and grace?
 - What does this sharing look like?

1 Thessalonians Questions:

- How does grief typically manifest in your life? Tears, anger, avoidance, ect?
 - What do you do with your grief?
- What are you hearing in this text?
- How do you process the second coming?
 - Does this text line up with what you have come to understand?
 - Where does it differ, line up?
- We are a resurrection people, but why do we still grieve those who have died?
 - How do we make room for grief "make a space for sorrow and keep it open" while also affirming hope in the resurrection?
- So, if we are indeed a resurrection people, how do we live our lives?
 - Do we live them like the rest of the world or does it look different? Why?
- What would have preached from these two texts?