



Daily Verse and Comment

Matthew 25:1

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

New King James Version

The characters of the parable are the "Bridegroom," also referred to as "Lord," who is [Jesus Christ](#) Himself, and, of course, "the ten virgins," representing those called of [God](#) ([Matthew 22:14](#); [Ephesians 4:1-6](#); [I Peter 1:15](#); [Revelation 17:14](#)). The Bride is not mentioned because she represents the entire church, and the church is not presented here in its entirety. By implication, the Bride is represented in this parable more personally in its individual members ([Psalm 45:14](#)). But since the wedding feast could not be held without the Bride, and since five virgins miss the feast, all ten virgins cannot make up the Bride. These ten virgins, then, represent those individuals called into the church at the end time. "The daughters of Judah" are treated similarly in the [Old Testament](#) ([Lamentations 2:13](#)).

When Jesus gave this parable, the mystery of the church was not yet fully known ([Ephesians 3:3-5](#)). In it, the called are seen individually as "virgins" expecting the Bridegroom to come. In this way, the parable illustrates "many are called, but few are chosen" ([Matthew 20:16](#); [22:14](#)). Interestingly, the apostle Paul refers to the church at Corinth in its virgin character in [II Corinthians 11:2](#), "I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." Virgin character refers to the whole church, but virgins (plural) describes individual members of the body. Jesus makes this parable very personal to highlight the need for each individual's spiritual preparedness.

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:

[Parable of the Ten Virgins \(Part One\)](#)

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