

St James News: Thought for the day – Wednesday 11th November 2020

Be Prepared – Rev John Ohen

The 10 Virgins (Bridesmaids). Matthew: 25 1-13

Last Sunday we read about the ten virgins or bridesmaids, and I have always wondered why there was no proper explanation about the true meaning or interpretation of the parable in St Mathew's gospel. Unlike some of the other parables like that of the Sower, for example, no explanation was given. Instead we are expected to plumb its depths and dig deep for its hidden meaning or figure it out for ourselves in prayer and with the help of the Holy Spirit.

All ten virgins went to this wedding, which they must have been looking forward to attend, but only five were eventually allowed to participate. On reaching at the venue, the Bridegroom was late to arrive, when the bridegroom finally arrived, the oil in five of their lamps had ran out. The five bridesmaids were referred to as being foolish, because they did not make adequate provision. When the oil of the five foolish ones ran out, they could not get a replacement. So, they went to buy some more oil but, on their return, the party had started, and they were refused entry into the wedding reception. They must have felt rejected and humiliated after all the efforts they had made. What a setback for the five foolish bridesmaids who were now separated from the others!

It seems to me that the message appears to be in the motto of the Boy Scout: 'Be Prepared and be ready'.

We are to be prepared at all times for the coming of our Lord Jesus. We are to live everyday as if it were our last. We are to wait patiently, fully alert in body, mind, and spirit for the coming of our Lord. Our actions and preparedness will enable us to watch, wait and pray.

We do not realise it, but like the virgins and all believers, we are all waiting for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, King of Kings. This is the central doctrine of our faith, together with Resurrection and Incarnation. The blessed hope of the Church is Christ's return. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Bible Quotation: Matthew 25: -13. "Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."