

Be Watchful and Ready 警醒準備



馬太福音 Matthew 25: 1-13

MGC 馬利蘭福音教會

9/20/2020

Olivet Discourse Messages 橄欖山講論信息

The Second Coming of Christ 基督第二次降臨



馬太福音廿四章 Matthew 24 MGC 5/10/2020

Israel, God's Time Clock for Christ's Return 以色列，主再來的時鐘



Matthew 24: 32-33; 15-16

馬太 24 章 32、33、15、16

MGC 6/28/2020 馬利蘭福音教會

Rapture or Tribulation ? 被提或災難？



1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

帖前四章 十三至十八節

MGC 7/26/2020 馬利蘭福音教會

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MGC 馬利蘭福音教會 9/20/2020



馬太福音 廿五：1-8



- 1 那時、天國好比十個童女、拿著燈、出去迎接新郎。
- 2 其中有五個是愚拙的，五個是聰明的。
- 3 愚拙的拿著燈、卻不豫備油。
- 4 聰明的拿著燈、又豫備油在器皿裡。
- 5 新郎遲延的時候、他們都打盹睡著了。
- 6 半夜有人喊著說、新郎來了、你們出來迎接他。
- 7 那些童女就都起來收拾燈。
- 8 愚拙的對聰明的說、請分點油給我們，因為我們的燈要滅了。

馬太福音 廿五：9-13



- 9 聰明的回答說、恐怕不彀你我用的，不如你們自己到賣油的那裡去買罷。
- 10 他們去買的時候、新郎到了，那豫備好了的、同他進去坐席，門就關了。
- 11 其餘的童女、隨後也來了、說、主阿、主阿、給我們開門。
- 12 他卻回答說、我實在告訴你們、我不認識你們。
- 13 所以你們要做醒、因為那日子、那時辰、你們不知道。

An open Bible with a black cover and a red bookmark, resting on a wooden surface. The pages are white with black text, and the binding is visible in the center.

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

Matthew 25 : 8-13 (NIV)



- 8 The 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..**

The parable of the 10 virgins is a parable warning the world to be ready for Jesus' second coming

Context of the Parable 比喻的上文

- 1) In the days of Noah, people were warned about a coming judgment for a long time. Still they ignored the warning and were caught **unprepared** when the flood came (Mat 24: 37-39)
- 2) Some people will be taken away (raptured) suddenly while others who are **not ready** will be left behind. (Mat 24:40-42)
- 3) The Son of Man will come **unexpectedly** like a thief at night. But if the house owner had known that and made **preparations**, his house would not be broken into (Mat 24: 43-44)
- 4) A household master comes back home **unexpectedly** at a time his servants were **unaware** of. The servant who has been faithful doing his job was rewarded, while the servant who indulge himself when the master was away thinking that his master **wouldn't be back so soon** was punished (Mat 24: 45-51)

The Parable's Setting 比喻的背景

A Jewish wedding in the first century has 3 phases:

Phase 1 : Engagement – the fathers make a contract to give their son and daughter to each other for marriage

Phase 2 : Betrothal – the couple comes together before their families and friends and make binding vows and covenant to each other. They are then considered officially married.

After the ceremony, the couple will go back to live with their parents and wait for the wedding.

During this time the bridegroom will start preparing a place for the bride to live with him. And the bride will wait at her parent's house for the bridegroom to return and take her.

The Parable's Setting 比喻的背景

Phase 3 : The bridegroom comes back with his best friends to take the bride. He usually arrives in the evening.

Meanwhile the bride waits with her bridesmaids (the 10 virgins) for the bridegroom to arrive. They all dress up in wedding garments and carry **torches (not lamp)** since it will take place late in the evening. When the bridegroom arrives, they will all parade through the night streets carrying their torches and singing on their way to the bridegroom's house where the wedding celebration will be held for 7 days.

This is a picture of Christ coming back to claim his bride (the church). In John 14: 2-3 Jesus promised his disciples: "In my Father's house are many rooms; I am going there to prepare a place for you.. I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (耶穌說) 在我父的家裡、有許多住處。我去原是為你們豫備地方去。我必再來接你們到我那裡去。我在那裡、叫你們也在那裡 (約翰福音14:2-3)

Characters & Objects in the Parable

比喻中的 人物和事物

The bridegroom – Jesus Christ

The virgins – bridesmaids, represent professing Christians (稱為基督徒的) who claim to be related to the bridegroom and interested in welcoming his return

Where is **the bride**? – she is not mentioned.
The focus here is the bridegroom and the bridesmaids.

The lamps (torches) -
symbolize God's word that
lights up our way (Ps. 119).



Characters & Objects in the Parable

比喻中的 人物和事物

Oil – it is the fuel that sustains the torch's flame, it symbolize the Holy Spirit inside a Christian.



It is the Holy Spirit who lights up God's Word inside us and energize us.

“if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. 人若沒有基督的靈、就不是屬基督的” (Romans 羅馬書 8:9)

Jesus told Nicodemus, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 耶穌對尼哥底母說,我實實在在的告訴你,人若不是從水和聖靈生的,就不能進神的國。”

(John 約 3:5)

The Wise & the Foolish Virgins 聰明的和愚拙的童女

The **10 virgins** look very much **alike** on the **outside**, but very **different inside**. The Bible puts them into 2 groups.

Their **distinction** is not between good and bad or thoughtful and thoughtless, but between **wise and foolish**.

The wise virgins symbolize genuine Christians

The foolish virgins symbolize self-deceived “believers”

Jesus said those who hear His words and put them into practice are wise men whereas those who don't are foolish.
(Matthew 7:24-27)

The wise virgins were **serious about** welcoming **the return** of the bridegroom so they prepared extra oil for their torches. The foolish one were not serious about it and **didn't bother to make preparations**. This matter reveals the hearts and difference between the wise and foolish virgins

External Similarities among the 10 virgins & professing Christians

Wise and foolish virgins

They are all delighted in attending the wedding

They all wear attractive wedding gowns

They are all waiting for the bridegroom to come back

They all hold up a lighted torch

True and false Christians

They all attend church worship, fellowship & Sunday school etc.

They all have respectable and religious appearance

They all believe Christ will return & wait for the event

They all uphold the Bible

Internal Differences among the 10 virgins & professing Christians

The wise virgins brought along extra oil for their torches. The foolish ones didn't bother

All the virgins claim to know the bridegroom, but the bridegroom said he doesn't know the foolish virgins

Foolish virgins denied admittance to the wedding

True Christians are born again with the indwelling HS. who makes them shine & bear fruits. False Christians aren't born again, no indwelling HS

All professed Christians claim to know Christ. But Christ will say He doesn't know the false Christians (Mat 7:21-23)

False Christians denied entrance to kingdom of heaven (Mat 7:21)

Who is True & Who is False ? 誰真誰假 ?

外在相同點

內在的分別

聰明和愚拙童女的比較	真假基督徒的比較
她們都樂於參加婚禮	他們都樂於參加教會活動: 崇拜、主日學、團契等等
她們都穿一樣的禮服	他們看來都像基督徒
她們都等候新郎來	他們都相信主再來並等候祂
她們都拿着火炬	他們都高舉聖經並有好表現
聰明的積極預備額外燈油 愚拙的懶得準備額外燈油 她們的火炬面臨熄滅	真信徒經歷重生，有內住的 聖靈使他們發亮、結菓子。 假信徒則沒有，靈命枯死
童女們都說自己認識新郎 新郎說不認識愚拙的童女	信徒都說認識基督但主說不 認識假信徒 (太 7:21-23)
愚拙童女被拒進入婚宴	假信徒被拒進入天國 (太七21)

The Bridegroom Comes Lately 新郎遲來

The bridegroom was very late in coming. All the virgins became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

Everyone expects a wedding to be a evening event. That's why torches are needed.

But starting a wedding at midnight is really too late. People ought to be in bed by midnight.

So all the 10 virgins, wise or foolish, watchful or not, all fell asleep.

**4 times we were told Jesus will return like a thief at night, in the darkest hour of night when everyone has fallen asleep.
(太 Mat 24: 43-44; 帖前 1Thes 5:2; 啓 Rev. 3:3 & 16:15)**

Are We Waiting in Vain? 我們是否空等一場？

For the past 2,000 years, countless faithful Christians waited for the return of Christ and have “fallen asleep”

Since Christ didn't come back during the lifetime of those Christians who have fallen asleep, **have they waited in vain?**

The answer is **NO**. When Christ return, they will be awoken, resurrected and caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1Thes 4:15-17) together with those living Christians

They will wake up like the 5 wise virgins and ready to meet Christ and enter the wedding because they were prepared & were ready before they died.

We can find Christians' gravestones bear these words:
“Awaiting Christ's Return 候主再來”

Whether Christ return in our lifetime or not, Jesus expects us to be prepared and ready to meet Him.



Got Enough Oil ? 夠油嗎？



"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their torches. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our torches are going out.' The foolish virgins woke up to the fact they were not prepared to meet the bridegroom and there is no time to prepare now. Shaky believers will one day wake up to the fact that they are unprepared to meet Christ. Unprepared to face judgment.

The foolish virgins got an idea: perhaps they could ride on the wise virgins' coattail – get a share of their “extra oil”
The wise virgins said **NO** to sharing their oil.
Salvation and spiritual matters are not transferable.
No one can hitch a free ride to heaven thru a relationship with others (godly parents, siblings, spouse or pastors etc.)
Each person must strive to secure his own salvation & personal relationship with Christ

Get Oil Now! 現在就要取油

Salvation is priceless but it is a free gift to those who truly believe and ask for it

Likewise the Holy Spirit (the oil) is a free gift to those who want it and ask for it. But you need to get it before the **store close at midnight.**

“If you knew **the gift of God** and..asked Him, He would have given you living water. (約 John 4:10)

你若知道**神的恩賜**. 你必早求祂、祂也必早給了你活水”

“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (路 Luke 11:13)

“你們雖然不好，尚且知道把好东西給自己的兒女，何況天父，豈不更要把聖靈賜給求祂的人嗎？”

The Door Was Shut. 門就關了！

While the foolish virgins 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.**

愚拙童女去買油的時候，新郎到了。那豫備好了的、同他**進去坐席。門就關了。**

In the days of Noah, people were warned about a coming judgment. They have been warned for a long time (120 years) Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood.. Then **the LORD shut him in.** 當洪水氾濫在地上的時候、挪亞整六百歲。挪亞就同他的妻、和兒子、兒婦、都進入方舟、躲避洪水。**耶和華就把他關在方舟裡頭。** (Gen 創 6)

The door to salvation will one day be shut and judgment will come

No Admittance 不準進入

"Later the foolish virgins also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us! 愚拙的童女、隨後也來了、說、主阿、主阿、給我們開門' (太 Mat 25: 11)



"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 凡稱呼我主阿、主阿的人、不能都進天國。惟獨遵行我天父旨意的人、纔能進去。(太 Mat 7: 21)

“I Don't Know You”

“我不認識你們”

The foolish virgins said: 'Sir! Sir! Open the door for us!' But the bridegroom replied: 'I tell you the truth, **I don't know you.**'
'愚拙的童女說：“主阿、主阿、給我們開門。他卻回答說、我實在告訴你們、**我不認識你們**” (太 Mat 25: 12)

The real reasons the foolish virgins could not get in wasn't because they fell asleep or because they came late or because they didn't have extra oil for their torches.

The bridegroom said the real reason **was because he doesn't know them.**

This is the **same reason** Jesus said many **people cannot get into the kingdom of heaven**: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven,... I will tell them plainly, '**I never knew you.**'" “凡稱呼我主阿、主阿的人、不能都進天國... 我就明明的告訴他們說、**我從來不認識你們**” (太 Mat 7: 21,23)

The Key is Known by God **關鍵**是被神所認識

Known by God means having an intimate relationship with God

The Bible use “know” to describe Adam’s intimacy with Eve:
“And **Adam knew Eve** his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain 亞當和他的妻子夏娃**同房**, 夏娃就懷孕, 生了該隱
(創 Gen 4:1 KJV;RSV; ESV)

Known by God means owned by God and following God (Jesus)

I am the good shepherd; I **know my sheep** and my sheep know me. My sheep **listen** to my voice; I **know them**, and they **follow me** ” 我是好牧人. 我**認識我的羊**、**我的羊也認識我**..我的羊**聽我的聲音**、**我也認識他們**、**他們也跟著我**”(約 Jn 10)

Known by God means loving God (Jesus)

“But if one **loves God**, one is **known by Him**.” (林前1 Cor. 8:3)
“如果有人**愛神**, 這人是**神所認識的**”(呂振中譯本)

The Key is Known by God **關鍵**是被神所認識

Known by God means knowing God (i.e. Christ):

‘But now that you **know God--or rather are known by God** ’
‘現在你們既然認識神，更可說是被神所認識的’(加 Gal 4:9)

Striving to know God (i.e. Christ):

‘ I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish ’ “我也把萬事當作是有損的，因為我以認識我主基督耶穌為至寶。為了祂，我把萬事都拋棄了，看作廢物”(腓 Phil 3:8)

Utterly known by God (詩 Ps 139): “O LORD, you have **searched me and you know me.. you perceive my thoughts ..before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, you are familiar with all my ways.** Such **knowledge** is too wonderful for me
耶和華阿、祢已經鑒察我、認識我.. 祢從遠處知道我的意念。我的舌頭還沒有發言，祢已經完全知道了。我一切所行的、祢都熟悉。這樣的知識太奇妙

Five Out of Ten 十個中有五個

The 5/10 number shouldn't be taken literally to imply half of all professing Christians will not be able to get into heaven. But that ratio does tell us it is a large percentage. **Jesus** did **say** in Mat. 7 that **many will be denied** entry into the kingdom of heaven.

That ratio also tells us there is a serious problem in the church. So, **what is the problem?**

1 Many **don't** really **understand the true gospel**, especially in churches where 'prosperity, social & political gospels' are preached. MGC is definitely not one of those.

2 People are **not serious about God**. They have incorrect motives, ex. get a sense of eternal security, to meet / find friends or opportunities to show off... They aren't seeking God.

3 The **faith of many stay in their head**, didn't get into their heart

4 Many are **not born again**, even among some who appear to be very religious, respectable, moral, noble and Biblically knowledgeable like Nicodemus (尼哥底母)

Prepare to Meet Your God
你當預備迎見你的神

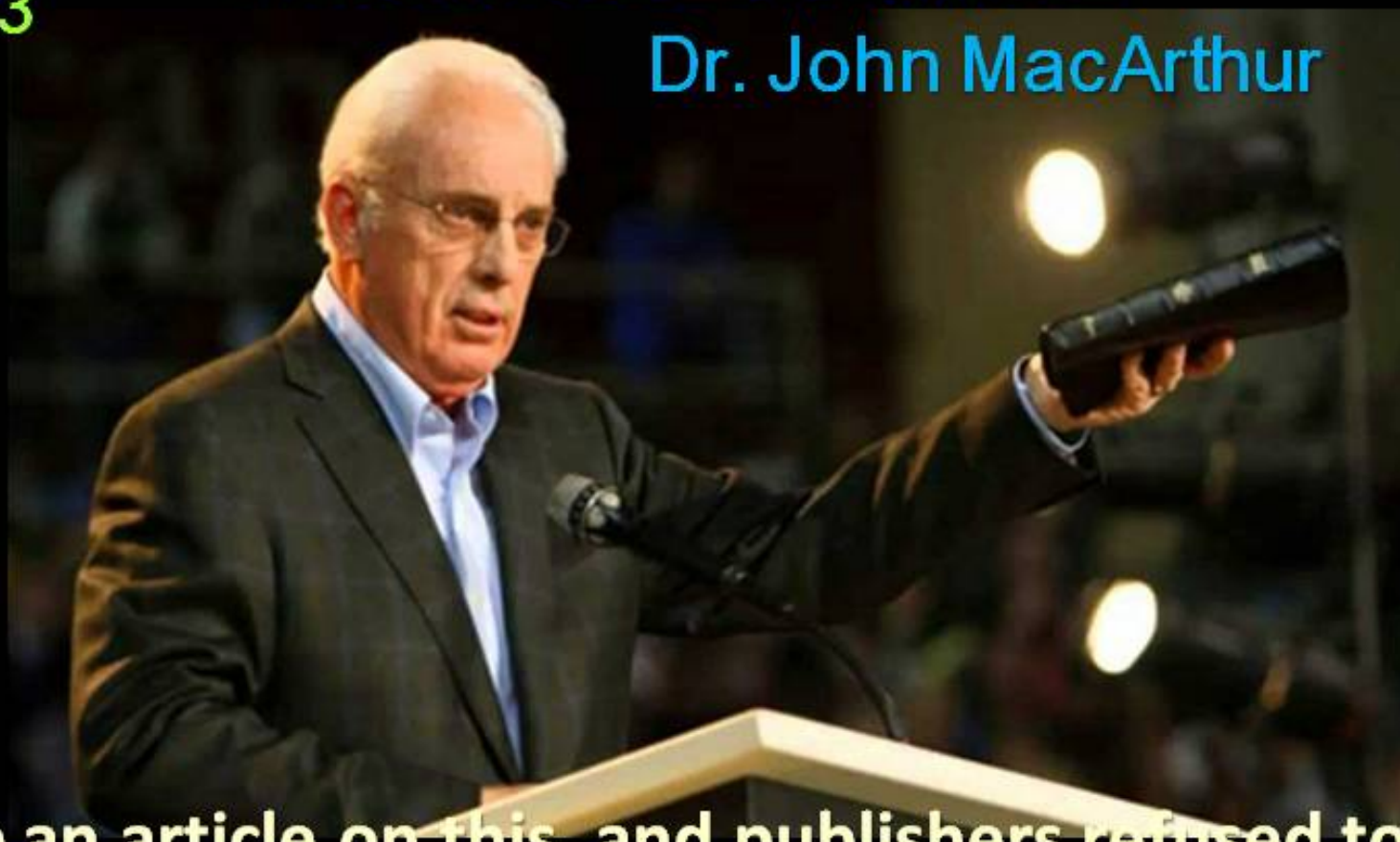
Amos
亞摩斯書
4:12

Matthew
馬太福音
25:1-13

The Fate of the Unprepared
未預備好見主者的命運

gty.org

Dr. John MacArthur



"I wrote an article on this, and publishers refused to publish it in a magazine. They said it would upset people. And so we let people go to hell in self-deception."

Summing It Up

總結

There are true and false Christians mixed in the church. Like the wise & foolish virgins. They look indistinguishable outside

Many will be shocked to find out in the very last moment they are not prepared to meet God but it will be too late

Personal relationship with Christ is what counts.
We can't ride on other people's coattail to get into the kingdom.

We cannot "borrow" what must be "purchased"

We cannot recall lost opportunity.

This parable does not intend to make our salvation uncertain, rather it intend to warn those with a false sense of security.

This parable concludes with the repeated warning:
"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." 所以你們要做醒、因為那日子、那時辰、你們不知道。(太 Matthew 25:13)

回應詩歌：十個童女迎新郎

10 Virgins Going Out to Meet the Bridegroom



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