

Thurs., Dec. 15, 2011

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Scripture

Matthew 25:1-13

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."

Devotional

What kind of "waiter" are you? No, not the kind who serves others their meals. I mean, when you have to wait for someone or something, are you patient? Do you pace? Do you sit quietly? Do you fill your time with endless activity to distract yourself?

This parable is about bridesmaids waiting longer than expected for the bridegroom to return to his home for his wedding feast. They wait and wait and wait so long that they become drowsy and fall asleep. Finally, when their wait is almost over, some are ready, but some are not. We must realize that we too are waiting—waiting for many things in our lives, but waiting most importantly for the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Are we prepared? Are we waiting impatiently or are we studying, learning, praying, spending time with other believers, worshipping, doing what Scripture calls us to do as we wait?

Prayer

Dear Lord, during this Advent season, may we wait with patience, faith, and hope, using each day as an opportunity to grow in you. Amen.