

We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.

Proverbs 16:9 (NLT)

(in Gethsemane)

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Matthew 26:41 (ESV)

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the groom. **Five of them were foolish and five were wise.** When the foolish took their lamps, they didn't take oil with them; but the wise ones took oil in their flasks with their lamps. **When the groom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.**

In the middle of the night there was a shout: “Here’s the groom! Come out to meet him.”

Then all the virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise ones, “Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.”

The wise ones answered, “No, there won’t be enough for us and for you. Go instead to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.”

When they had gone to buy some, the groom arrived, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the rest of the virgins also came and said, “Master, master, open up for us!”

He replied, “Truly I tell you, I don’t know you!”

Therefore be alert, because you don’t know either the day or the hour.

Matthew 25:1-13 (CSB)

1. BE PREPARED FOR ANYTHING

In the middle of the night there was a shout: “Here’s the groom! Come out to meet him.”

Matthew 25:6 (CSB)

2. DON’T LIVE ON BORROWED OIL

Then all the virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise ones, “Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.”

The wise ones answered, “No, there won’t be enough for us and for you. Go instead to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.”

Matthew 25:7-9 (CSB)

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

3. STAY ALERT, DON’T HIT SNOOZE

Therefore be alert, because you don’t know either the day or the hour.

Matthew 25:13 (CSB)