

**Who is the Bride of Christ?**

*(Matthew 25:1-13)*

Wedding or Marriage metaphors:

- **Betrothal** – 1Cor 11:2-3; Matt 26:26-29; John 14:1-3
- **Sanctification** / Spiritual Maturity – Eph 5:25-27; Matt 5:17-19; Matt 7:13-14
- **Unblemished Wedding Garment** – Eph 5:27; Rev 19:7-9

The Parable of the Ten Virgins – Matt 25:1-13

- **When** – what event is Jesus referring to in this Parable?  
Ans: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Who** are the ten virgins?  
Ans: \_\_\_\_\_
- **What** do the oil and sleeping represent?  
Ans: \_\_\_\_\_
- **Why** is being prepared important?  
Ans: \_\_\_\_\_
- **What** are the consequences of not being prepared?  
Ans: \_\_\_\_\_
- **The Final Word** – Be Prepared!  
*Use your gifts to be productive and multiply the Kingdom.  
Exhibit hospitality and generosity.*

1. Rabbis often taught in parables and included a “remez” (a hint or allusion or deeper allegorical meaning) to their story. Consider the use of “ten” virgins in this parable. What Old Testament scripture using “ten” could this be an allusion to in order to bring greater understanding? Ten Commandments? Ten being a minyan or legal congregation from the story of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 18)? Ten camels that Eliezer took to search for a bride for Isaac (Gen 24)? Other?
2. The “bride” is never mentioned in the parable of the Ten Virgins. Five of the betrothed go into the wedding feast and five are omitted. Who do you think the two large groups represent? Do you think there is a “Spiritual Bride”? Or do you think all believers are the “bride” in the kingdom to come? We must be careful not to carry a metaphor farther than the point of the parable.
3. Do other scriptures suggest that there is a “spiritual bride” – some that have a special intimacy and authority with Christ in the fullness of the kingdom to come? Consider Jesus words to his disciples in Matthew 19:27-30. Will some inherit more authority in the kingdom when Jesus is reigning? Is this equivalent to being the “bride”?
4. Is it fair to say that this parable suggests that there is an event in heaven after the rapture and Judgement Seat of Christ, but before the return of Christ to earth (Revelation 19:7-9) that some will be excluded from? Is the invitation to this wedding feast a reward for being prepared and sanctified (having grown in spiritual maturity)?

