

**“Redemption’s Song:
The Gospels in Perfect Harmony”
It’s a Song of Awakening: The Bridesmaids
“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day
or the hour.” Matthew 25:13**

A. Preparation for the Bridegroom...

1. The **Similarities**...all ten bridesmaids:
 - Were invited to the wedding
 - Responded positively and accepted the invitation
 - Had respect, admiration, or love for the bridegroom
 - Believed the bridegroom would come
 - Took their lamps and went to meet him
 - Became drowsy and fell asleep

“The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.” Mt. 25:1, 5
2. The **Difference**...
 - Five of them were wise and came prepared
 - Five of them were foolish and were not prepared

“The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.” Mt. 25:3-4

The Elements in the Parable:

- The Bridegroom is **Jesus**
- The wedding feast is **heaven** – eternity with God
- The bridesmaids are **people** who claim the title of Christian
- The oil in the lamps is **faith** in Christ and **holiness**

B. Arrival of the Bridegroom...

“At midnight the cry rang out: Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!” Mt. 25:6

1. The Bridegroom was **indeed** coming.
2. The Bridegroom was a **long** time in coming.
3. The Bridegroom arrived at **midnight**.
4. The Bridegroom arrived when the **cry** rang out.

“The Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God...” 1 Thessalonians 5:16

C. Entering the Wedding Banquet with the Bridegroom...

1. The arrival of the Bridegroom is **not** the time to prepare
“We who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” 1 Thessalonians 4:17
2. The five wise bridesmaids went into the wedding banquet **with** the Bridegroom.

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of a great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good.” Titus 2:11-14
3. Once the door is **shut**, it will not be opened again.

“...between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.” Luke 16:26

Are you ready?

Pray to receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord or to recommit your life to Christ:

Dear Jesus, I admit to you that I am a sinner - and that I need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins and rose again defeating death and evil. Please forgive me. I want to turn from my sins and live in a way that is pleasing to You. I now invite You to come into my heart and my life. I want to trust and follow You as Savior and I want You to be the Lord of my life. Help me, Jesus, to live for You and to be prepared for the day You return. In Jesus’ name, Amen

“I Choose Jesus” cards are available in the back of the seats or in the pads in the bleachers

Or text “I Choose Jesus” to 88202