

32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)



Matthew 25:1-13

'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves." And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

Reflection

In this Gospel, the difference between the wise and foolish bridesmaids is simple: they were prepared. They didn't know exactly when the bridegroom would arrive, but they were ready when he did. Being prepared doesn't mean knowing exactly what is going to happen. It means being ready to respond when an opportunity comes. We can't always predict when someone will need our help, but we can make sure our hearts and our communities are ready to respond. Sometimes opportunities to help are small and unexpected - noticing someone who is struggling, being willing to listen, or stepping forward when something needs doing.

Materials Needed

Paper and pens

Activity

Tell the group they are putting together a Youth SVP toolkit for the year ahead. Give them a list of things they could have available, such as a list of local organisations, contact details for their SVP conference, ideas for activities, fundraising ideas, a list of people who could help, craft materials, prayer resources, a first-aid kit, snacks, a camera/phone for recording projects, and transport options. Ask them to choose the five things they think would be most useful and explain their choices. Then ask: "What could we put in place now that would make it easier for us to respond when an opportunity to help comes up?"

This links to the Gospel because being prepared isn't about knowing exactly what will happen - it's about being ready when the opportunity comes.

Call to Action

Choose one thing your group could put in place now that would help you respond more easily when someone needs your help.

