

THE SIGNS OF CHRIST'S COMING, PART 9:
THE CONSEQUENCE OF FAILING TO PREPARE
(Matthew 25:1-13)

- I. The CONTEXT (Matt. 25:1a)
 - A. His RETURN to establish His kingdom will be UNEXPECTED
 - 1. SIGNS of His imminent coming will be OBVIOUS
 - 2. Still, FEW will be PREPARED
 - B. He compares it to the FINAL stage of a WEDDING

- II. The PARABLE (Matt. 25:1b-12)
 - A. ALL the BRIDESMAIDS went out to MEET the GROOM
 - 1. Five were FOOLISH: Took NO OIL for their TORCHES
 - 2. Five were PRUDENT: Took OIL for their TORCHES
 - 3. ALL fell ASLEEP when groom took LONGER than EXPECTED
 - B. The BRIDEGROOM came SUDDENLY at MIDNIGHT
 - C. The BRIDESMAIDS were AWAKENED by a SHOUT
 - D. They ALL rose to PREPARE their TORCHES
 - 1. The FOOLISH asked for OIL when their torches would not LIGHT
 - 2. The PRUDENT had NONE to SPARE

3. The FOOLISH left to try to PREPARE
- E. The bridegroom ARRIVED while the foolish were AWAY
1. The PRUDENT were ADMITTED
 2. The FOOLISH returned TOO LATE
 - a. They BEGGED to be ADMITTED
 - b. They were REFUSED because they were FRAUDS

III. The MEANING

- A. The BRIDESMAIDS represent PROFESSING BELIEVERS at the END of the TRIBULATION
- B. The BRIDEGROOM represents JESUS at His RETURN
- C. The TORCHES represent the LIGHT of SALVATION
- D. The OIL represents GENUINE FAITH in Christ
 1. Some will EXPECT to be admitted WITHOUT true faith
 2. They will TRY to be admitted by the faith of OTHERS
 - a. Faith is not TRANFERABLE
 - b. They had not BELIEVED while they COULD

IV. The WARNING (Matt. 25:13)

- A. They won't KNOW the PRECISE time of Jesus' RETURN
- B. They must be PREPARED for Him to come SUDDENLY