

# Daily *Reflections*

The Divine Intervention

August 28, 2015

## *Scripture*

### **Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

“The Kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them,

but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.

Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

At midnight, there was a cry,

‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise,

‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

But the wise ones replied,

‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you.

Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’

While they went off to buy it,

the bridegroom came

and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.

Then the door was locked.  
Afterwards the other virgins came and said,  
'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'  
But he said in reply,  
'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'  
Therefore, stay awake,  
for you know neither the day nor the hour."

## *Our Scripture Reflection*

To the modern ear, today's parable can sound so "unfair", but based on the expectations placed on the wedding attendants (virgins) in Jesus' day it isn't. Attendants whether female or male were expected to be alert and ready to serve the needs of the bridegroom and his bride WHEN those needs arose, not at a time of convenience for themselves! The five foolish virgins in today's Gospel failed miserably simply because they were not committed, and therefore, were unprepared to serve. The same can be said for one who claims to be a disciple of Jesus. We, too, are called to be at His service, to be ready and prepared to do His will. But are we?

## *Food for your Journey*

In his book *Politically Correct Parables*, Robert Martin Walker concludes the parable with a postmodern punch:

"A few hours later, the other bridespersons returned from their oil-buying mission. They discovered that the door to the banquet hall was shut. They banged on the door saying, 'Please, open to us. We had to get the oil merchant out of bed and it took longer than we thought.'

"But the bridegroom, who happened to be standing near the locked door, said, 'Even though you are victims of nonlinear Eastern-style thinking, you should have brought enough oil in case I was delayed. Not only are you cerebrally challenged, you are foresight-impaired.'

"They screamed at the bridegroom, 'Chauvinist, sexist swine! How dare you verbally abuse us! Marriage is domestic incarceration!'

"In their anger, they doused the door with the oil from their lamps and set it ablaze. They then ran away and organized an Oppressed Bridespersons' Support Group based on 12-step principles."

--Robert Martin Walker, *Politically Correct Parables* (Kansas City: Andrews and McMeel, 1996), 17-18.

## *Prayer from the Heart*

Dear Jesus, in a world filled with distractions and rooted in the exaltation of "self", help me to always remember that I was placed in this life with the honor of serving You. Amen.

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