

**Discussion and Reflection Questions**  
**Pentecost 24A - 12th of November 2023**  
**Formed for the Benefit of Others**

**Read: Matthew 25.1-13**

<sup>1</sup> 'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." <sup>7</sup> Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." <sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." <sup>12</sup> But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." <sup>13</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

**Discussion & Reflection Question**

1. In this parable Jesus is talking to the disciples. How important is it to understand who the audience is when Jesus is speaking & teaching?
2. Jesus is close to his arrest & crucifixion. How important is it to understand the timing when Jesus is speaking & teaching?
3. How easy is it to put yourself into this parable as one of the characters?
4. What does it mean to always be ready? What does being formed to be ready look like?
5. What are we supposed to be ready for?
6. What are the consequences for not being ready? Who suffers when the Church is foolish?"
7. How so we ensure that we have enough oil? How do we stay "fuelled"?
8. What impact can us being ready have on others?

**Prayer**

Eternal God, you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand: keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes we may go out joyfully to meet him, and with him enter into the marriage feast that you have prepared for all who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.