



**November 12, 2017 Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 154 Gospel MT 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."

**Spiritual Reflection:** Fulton Sheen: "If you do not worship God, you worship something, and nine times out of ten it will be yourself. You have a duty to worship God, not because He will be imperfect and unhappy if you do not, but because you will be imperfect and unhappy." The 10 virgins all started off on equal footing. Five of them were smart enough to realize that the bridegroom (and the community) did not report to them and so they went the extra mile. The five foolish ones failed to see for one reason or another that they were not there center of the event and that the bridegroom was and therefore they failed.

#### **Spiritual Questions**

1. How is the foolish virgins' failure related to the sin of pride?
2. How is the wise virgins' successes related to the virtue of humility?
3. Why do you think the bridegroom did not recognize the foolish virgins?
4. What happens to people who are not ready when Christ comes?
5. What can you do to be more "awake" in your spiritual life?