

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: The *Wise* and Foolish Virgins

TEXT: *Matthew 24:36—25:13*

Instructions: *Instructions: - Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses to the discussion questions and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: The Mexican government was aware that earthquake often happens, but preparations were not made. The Columbian government knew a volcanic eruption was imminent, but thousands lost their lives when the eruption came. Christ's second coming is spoken of with joy from many pulpits, but for many, it will be a catastrophe of unparalleled magnitude. Why do human beings unthinkingly play Russian roulette? (*Russian roulette is a potentially deadly game of chance in which a player places a single bullet in a revolver, spins the cylinder, places the muzzle against the head or body of the opponent or themselves, and pulls the trigger. If the loaded chamber aligns with the barrel, the weapon will fire, fatally (or seriously) injuring the player. with possible disaster*). This parable helps us to understand the delicacy of His return.

1. Give an example of a warning you may have ignored. Did ignoring the warning get harder or easier as time went on? Explain.
2. From the scripture read, can you describe how will the coming of the Son of Man be similar to the days of Noah (vs. 36-41)?
3. Christ's main point is not to warn against "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage" (v. 38 and also v. 49). But is it logical to say that those things play no part in our inability to focus on the worship of God and preparation for Christ's return? Discuss.
4. Jesus compares His coming to a thief breaking into a house (vs. 42-44) and a master returning home (vs. 45-51). What does each story underscore about: (a) the nature of His return and (b) our responsibility in preparation to meet Him?
5. If the Lord returned today, what would He hope to find us doing as believers (vs. 45-46)? To what extent can we cope with such things given the destruction brought about by the level of modern-day civilization in the areas of technology, society, economy, and politics?

6. In the verses (36-51) read, how would you view Christ's illustrations about his coming – (Joyful or Fearful events)? Explain.

7. In biblical times the bridegroom would come to the bride's home after dark were the bridesmaids (virgins) were also waiting, and then would take the bride (and them) in procession to the bridegroom home for the wedding feast. Discuss the similarities and the differences between the wise and foolish virgins in today's Christian's real-life experience?

8. According to this parable what constitutes wisdom about Christ's return, and how did the bridegroom's long delay reveal the differences between the wise and foolish virgins (vs. 6-12)?

10. It has been more than two thousand years since Jesus promised to return (note v. 5). What negative effects might this delay have on you?

11. What can Christians do to overcome these negative effects and is there anything that can be done to hasten His return?