

Children

For Primary School Children

Reading: Jesus told a story about ten young women waiting for a wedding celebration. Five were prepared with enough oil for their lamps while the others were not, reminding us to always be ready to welcome Jesus into our lives.

Recognising: Can you think of a 'Jesus person'— a parent, a grandparent or a teacher— who helps you make time for Jesus through prayer and good actions?

Draw or write about this person and how they have helped you to make time for Jesus.

Responding: Father, I thank You for the people who help me make time for Jesus.

Father, I am sorry for the times when I have forgotten to make time for You.

Father, I ask for Your help to be ready to welcome Jesus into my life each day. true happiness now and forever in heaven.

Resting: Remain silent for a few moments with the word 'ready' in your heart.

Reflecting: We can be ready for Jesus every day.

Responsibility: **This week I will make time for Jesus by...**

LECTIO DIVINA

Living the Word

A WEEK'S JOURNEY WITH THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Year A - 32nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

A companion for encountering Jesus' love in everyday life.



Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

You are invited to **read** the Gospel passage slowly, attentively, respectfully and reverently as a gift of God.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: The foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep.

But at midnight there was a cry, 'The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.' At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, 'Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out.' But they replied, 'There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves.' They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed.

The other bridesmaids arrived later. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us.' But he replied, 'I tell you solemnly, I do not know you.' So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour."

Background to Gospel passage

Where does it happen?
Jesus has left the Temple and is now in a quieter place on the Mt of Olives just outside Jerusalem with a good view of the city.

When does it happen?
This is the final stage in his public ministry and Jesus' passion and death are imminent.

Who is there?
Jesus is alone with his closest disciples.

What happens?
In today's Gospel we read about ten bridesmaids waiting for the coming of the bridegroom (God's coming to save them!). He takes such a long time to come that they all "grow drowsy and fall asleep." Some were prepared for the long wait: they had the necessary "flask of oil" to sustain them and went into the wedding hall. Others were found wanting and were not ready for the long wait. When the moment of his coming arrived they missed out and found "the door closed." That extra "flask of oil" (patience and trust) was not something

anyone could give them; they had to acquire it for themselves through prayer and practice. Hence, Jesus' strong exhortation to "stay awake" – in faith and hope for the time of his coming! Because **come he will!**

Recognising Stage (Meditate)

- *Trust in the power of the Holy Spirit **at work within you.***
- ***Enter into the passage:** Where do you feel drawn? What touches you? What does it*
- *remind you of?*
- *Let the Gospel and your memories speak **to each other.***
- ***Notice the same loving presence of** Jesus at work **again today** in yourself and in others.*
- *If needed, use the following prompts to awaken such memories*

"At midnight there was a cry: 'Look, the Bridegroom is here, Go out and meet him.'"
Remember a time when you or your family or community faced a dark and difficult period of waiting. Remember how you felt disheartened, lost courage or felt tempted to give up hope.

Who were the voices of hope who helped you persevere, reminding you that God had not abandoned you, and calling you to recognise his presence, even in the darkness?

Or "The foolish ones said the to the sensible ones, 'Give us some of your oil, our lamps are going out.'"
Remember a time when you missed an opportunity to recognise God's grace or experience the joy of his coming because disappointment, cynicism or lost hope had closed your heart.

Or "Those who were ready went in with him (the bridegroom) to the wedding hall."
Remember a time when, after a long period of waiting, you experienced God's love and grace. What was it like to move from uncertainty and longing to the joy of fulfilment? Can you recall the hope and gratitude you felt as you finally entered the "wedding feast"?

What memories come back to you? Listen deeply to your own life experience.

Where was it? When was it? Who was there? What happened?

(Some might find it helpful to journal their memory.)

I remember the time when…

Gen.25:16, 'Truly God was in this place and I didn't see it,' until now!

Prayer Response

***You are invited to respond in your own words, and where possible, together with some words from the passage.** Let the prayer flow from your recognition of the passage, or any part of it, in life experience. You might find it helpful to journal your prayer.*

Tell your Father how this passage and the memories it has evoked have awakened gratitude for the presence of Jesus in your life and in the world. Heavenly Father, I thank you…

The Gospel is always a call to repentance as well. Share with the Father your sorrow for the times when you, or a community you belong to, have fallen short in living this Gospel. Heavenly Father, I am sorry for...

Ask your Father for the help you need to live the Gospel more fully—in yourself, your family, community, Church and world. Heavenly Father, please give us the help we need to…



You are invited to deepen this prayer experience by resting your heart silently in God's presence and love. The quiet repetition of a word or phrase from the passage may help you on this journey to greater stillness and greater silence, e.g. "The bridegroom is here."

An Invitation to Reflect

From your journey with the passage in meditation and prayer, what new insight or understanding have you received about the true meaning of love or some expression of it, into what it means to be fully human, and how God's kingdom is being made present among us today?

Rest in this truth, hold it in prayer and trust that it will bear fruit in your life.

Thought for the week

The ability to wait patiently for another is one of the deepest and most beautiful expressions of love.

Responsibility

With God's help I will try to live this gospel by...