The kingdom of God is near

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Are you ready or just dressed for the occasion? Ten bridesmaids are preparing for a wedding; with stunning new clothes for this special day, they ready themselves to meet the bridegroom.

The kingdom of heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the groom. Five were wise, bringing extra oil. The other five were foolish — they brought lamps but no spare oil. While waiting for the groom, who was delayed, they all fell asleep.

At midnight, a cry rang out: "Here comes the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!" They all woke up and lit their lamps, but the foolish ones realized their oil was finished. "Give us some of yours!" they begged. "No," said the wise ones, "There may not be enough for us all. Go and buy more."

While they were gone, the groom arrived. The prepared bridesmaids entered the wedding feast — and the door was shut. When the others returned, it was too late. "Lord, Lord, open the door!" they cried. But they were turned away. Jesus said, **"Keep watch, for you do not know the day or the hour of my return."**

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