

# **The Secret of Waiting**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Matthew 25:1-13.

B. The key to understanding the parable of the ten virgins is to understand the importance of watching.

## II. The parable of the ten virgins.

A. The movement of desire.

1. Half of life is waiting for something.
2. History will end at the feet of the one that believers wait for--the Bridegroom.

B. The movement of division.

1. The people were divided in the way they were waiting for the Bridegroom.
2. Some were wise and some were foolish.

C. The movement of delay.

1. The intervening time between the first and second coming would be extended.
2. Watching does not mean unceasing waiting until Jesus returns--watching allows time for normal activities.

D. The movement of dismay.

1. Some virgins used up all their oil.
2. The door is shut for those who do not have eternal life, which is knowing God.
3. The danger for the Christian is that he only takes enough of the "oil" of the Spirit to know God doctrinally and not personally.
4. It is only at the cross that one can experience life.
5. Jesus confronts us with the fact that each person must face God individually.
6. One must commit to God whole-heartedly.

### **Application questions:**

1. What does it mean to “watch” for Jesus?

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2. Describe why some who were “waiting” for Jesus were dismayed at the end.

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3. What are some practical tips a Christian can take to examine himself to make sure that he is not one of the virgins who were shut out? Explain.

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