

A nighttime outdoor scene featuring a table covered with a white cloth on the left, holding a candelabra with lit candles and a floral arrangement. A string of warm white lights hangs across the scene. On the right, two white lanterns with lit candles are visible. The background is dark with some foliage.

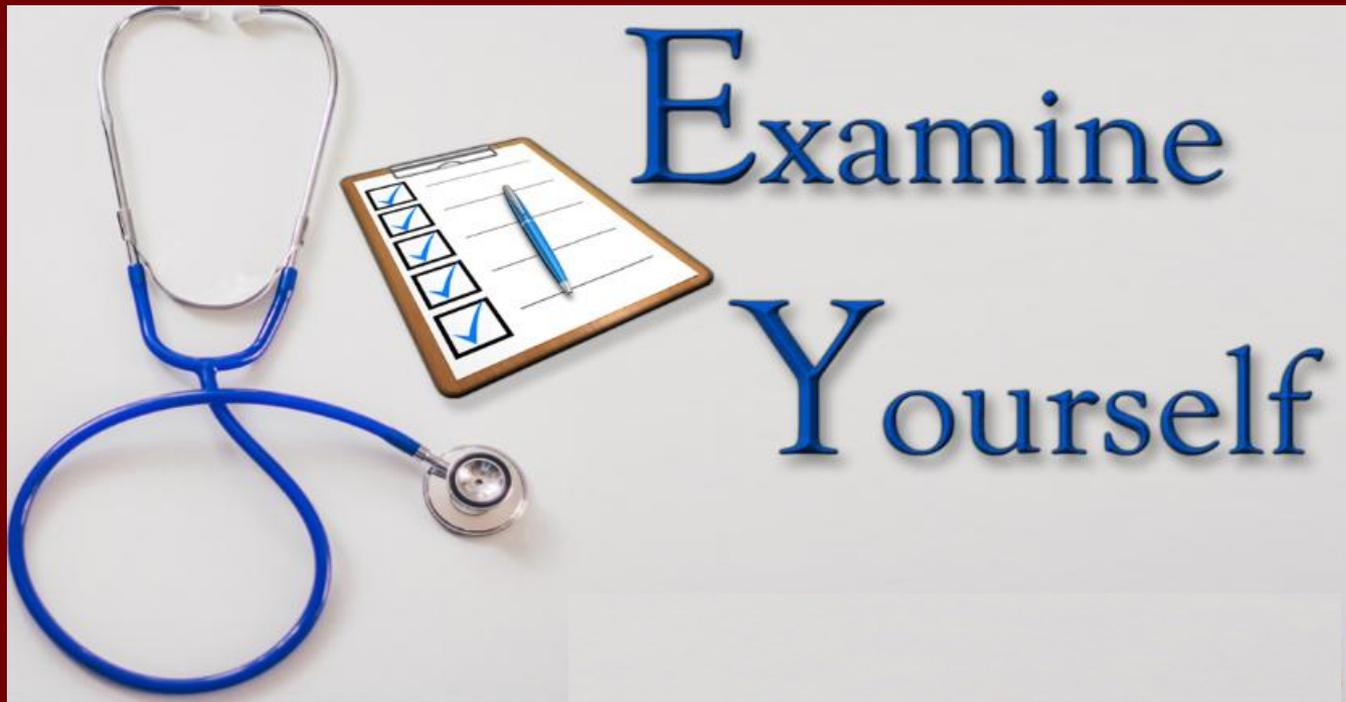
***"Are You Slumbering  
and Sleeping?"***

***Neal Parker***

# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ II Corinthians 13:5-6

- Examine Ourselves
- Are we in The Faith?
- Prove Ourselves



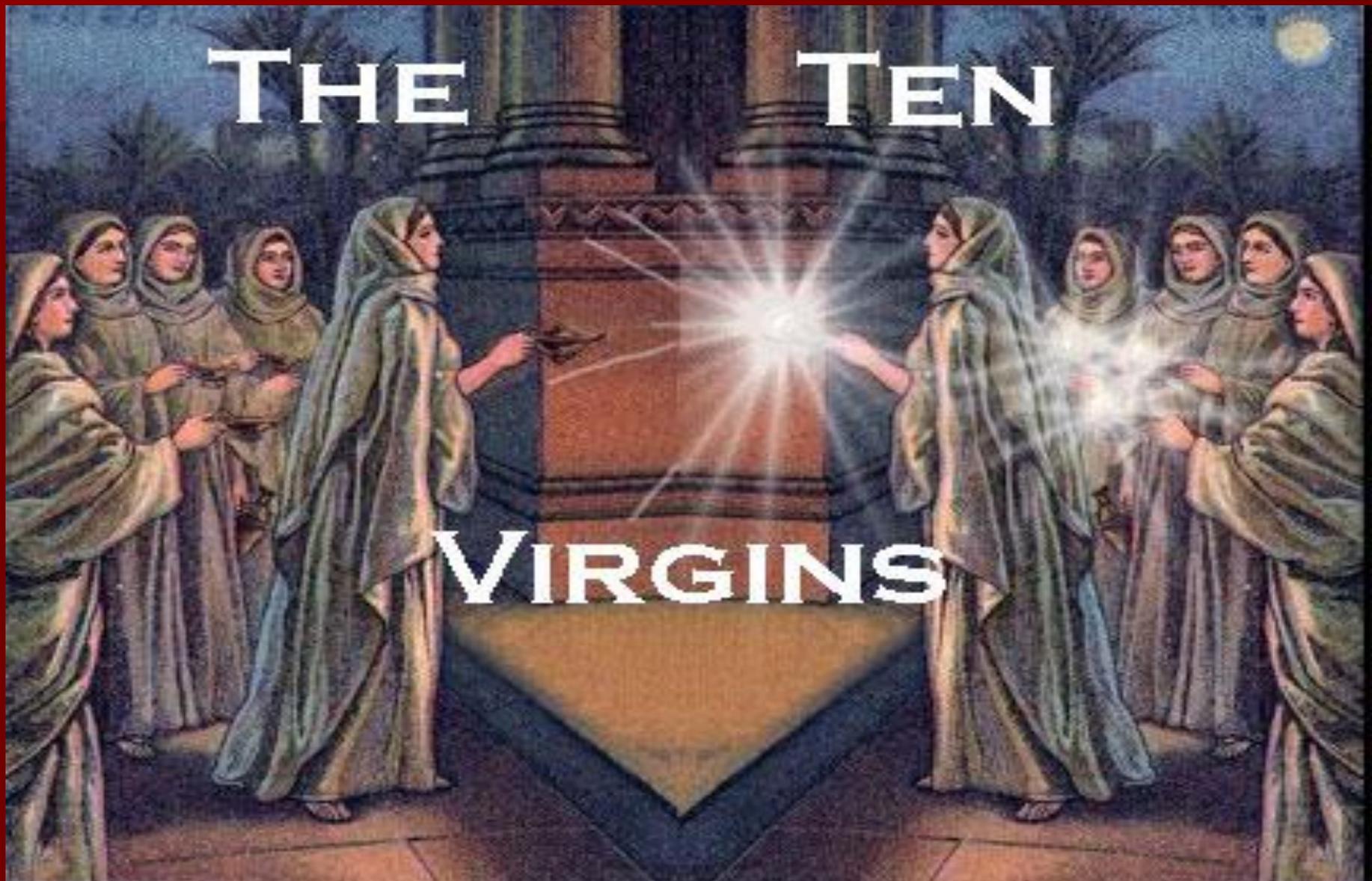
# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ Mark 13:32-37

- Only the Father knows the day / hour
- ...be watching and praying
- Lest he come suddenly and find you sleeping



**Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?**



# Context: Parable of the Ten Virgins

- **Matthew 24:1-51 / Mark 13 / Luke 21**
  - The topic of readiness is important in Jesus' utilization of parables to teach us!
  - In the parable of the Fig Tree, Jesus emphasizes that while we may see signs of possible events (fulfillment of the beginning of sorrows and the perilous times), we must stay in a state of readiness, at all times, "...but of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, not the Son, but the Father alone" (verse 36).

# Context: Parable of the Ten Virgins

- **Matthew 24:1-51 / Mark 13 / Luke 21**
  - We are encouraged to “...be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming...you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.” (verses 42 and 44) and it is our responsibility to continue productive activity (physical and spiritual activity), until Jesus returns.

**ARE YOU READY?**

# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ Matthew 25:1-13

- **Isaiah 62:1-5** “...as the groom rejoices over the bride...”
- **II Corinthians 11:2** “...to present you as a pure virgin to Christ...”



# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ Matthew 25:1-13

- “Virgins” – Greek “parthenos” / means – Virgin; Marriageable Maiden; one who has not had physical relations; in Biblical usage



# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ Matthew 25:1-13

- The church is the virgin who is being presented to one husband, Christ.
- In Revelation 14:4, the word 'virgin' is applied to people who have not defiled themselves with women. "These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins...These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb."



# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ Matthew 25:1-13

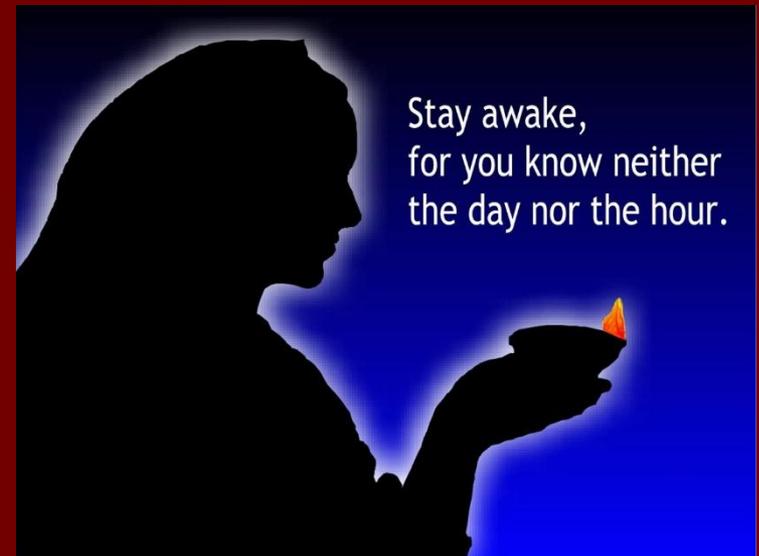
- **“Slumbered”** – Greek **“nystazo”** / means – to nod in sleep; in Biblical usage
  - **“to be negligent, careless”**
- **“Slept”** – Greek **“kathudo”** / means – to fall asleep, drop off to sleep; in Biblical usage
  - **“euphemistically, to be dead”**
  - **“metaphorically, to yield to sloth and sin; to be indifferent to one’s salvation”**



# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ Matthew 25:1-13

- Sleep means to take rest by a suspension of voluntary exercise of the powers of the body and mind
- Sleep means to be dormant.
- In Sleep, the sub-conscious mind is inactive.



# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ Matthew 25:1-13

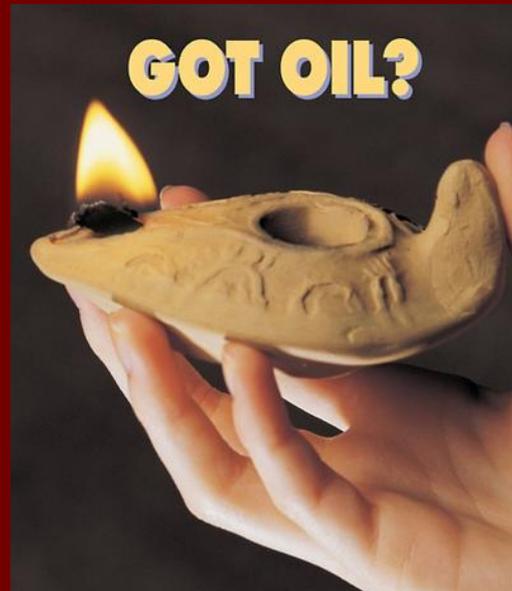
- Arose means to collect one's faculties
- Trimmed means to put in proper order.



# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ Matthew 25:1-13

- “Oil” – Greek “elaion” / means – olive oil; in Biblical usage
  - “to fuel lamps”
  - “anointing for the healing of the sick and consecrate for service”



# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ Matthew 25:1-13

- **“Lamp” – Greek “lampas” / means – a torch; in Biblical usage**
  - **“a lamp, the flame of which is fed with oil”**
- **Jesus instructs in Parable of the Lamp, (Luke 8:16-18), “No one, when he has lit a lamp (candle), covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, ...Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.”.**

# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ Matthew 25:1-13

- In the Bible, the lamp often symbolizes salvation. In Isaiah 62:1, we read about 'the lamp of salvation that is burning.' "For Zion's sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns". Salvation can be symbolized by a burning lamp.
- The lamp is also a symbol of God's Word, in Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

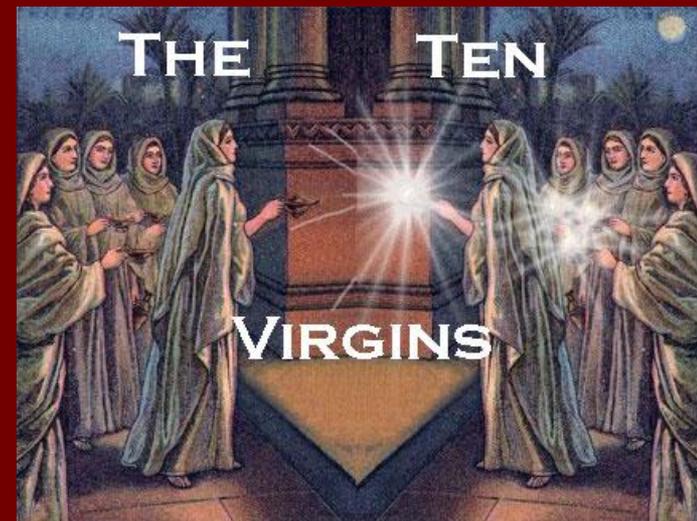
## ■ **Matthew 25:1-13**

- **When the foolish virgins wanted to trim their wick, they realized that they do not have much oil left.**
- **It is not that they are out of oil, but they are beginning to run out of oil, at that particular time.**
- **Their lamp had been burning while they were sleeping. It was still burning when they woke up.**
- **And as they trimmed the wick of their lamp, they looked inside the bowl and saw that they are almost out of oil.**

# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ Matthew 25:1-13

- The foolish virgins were satisfied that their lamps were burning at this present time. It was sufficient for this present age, when they were still alive, in this present world.
- The wise virgins made preparation for the coming age. They were living in this age, but they lived for the age to come.



# Are You Slumbering and Sleeping?

## ■ Our Responsibility

- The main point Christ appears to emphasize in this parable is to be prepared for the future, namely, the coming of Christ.
- The prophet Amos expresses this powerfully: "Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!" (Amos 4:12).
- The last verse of the parable (verse 13) makes its purpose ring in our ears: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

