

Quarter 4 Lesson 6
Being Ready When Jesus Comes Again
1 and 2 Thessalonians

Memory Verse: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing."

I Thessalonians 5: 16-17



Background:

Located in the northwest corner of the Aegean Sea in modern-day Greece, Thessalonica was a large and important city. It was the chief seaport of Macedonia, and contained much wealth and learning. Immediately south of Thessalonica were the snowclad slopes of Mount Olympus, the supposed seat of the mythical gods of Greece. Most of the population were Greeks and Roman colonists; however, there were some Jews who also lived there.

It was in this setting that Paul, along with Silas and Timothy, visited Thessalonica on his second missionary journey. Paul's stay at Thessalonica was short-- probably only a few months, perhaps two or three-- but long enough that he was successful in spreading the gospel.

It was from Corinth that Paul wrote the first Thessalonian letter in late A.D. 50 or early 51. First Thessalonians is one of the earliest of Paul's letters, and, thus, also one of the first books in the New Testament to be written. Paul had not had time in Thessalonica to instruct the new Christians as thoroughly as he would have liked. In this letter he wanted to express his joy at their steadfastness, encourage them during their suffering, and correct some misunderstandings about the Lord's return.

I Thessalonians 1: 1-10

In these verses we learn that the church in Thessalonica was strong and faithful. They received the gospel even though they were persecuted; they were examples to all the other believers in that area; they had turned away from worshipping idols.

I Thessalonians 4:9-12

In these verses Paul talks about leading a brotherly and orderly life. WHAT ARE SOME THINGS PAUL SAYS THEY SHOULD DO TO LIVE SUCH A LIFE?

Love each other
Lead a quiet life
Mind your own business
Work with your own hands

DO THESE THINGS APPLY TO US TODAY?

I Thes. 4:13-18 – 5: 1-11

In these verses Paul tries to clear up some misunderstandings the Thessalonians had about the second coming of Christ. They seemed to think that Jesus was coming back very soon and were concerned about those who had died before His return. Paul goes on to explain that no one knows when Jesus will return.

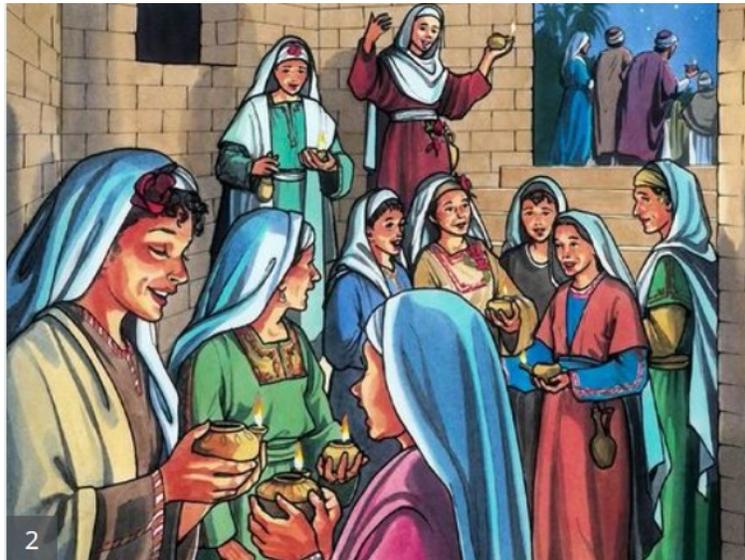
READ 4:13-18 and 5:1-11.

Paul continues to explain about the second coming in 2 Thessalonians chapter 1. READ verses 4-10.

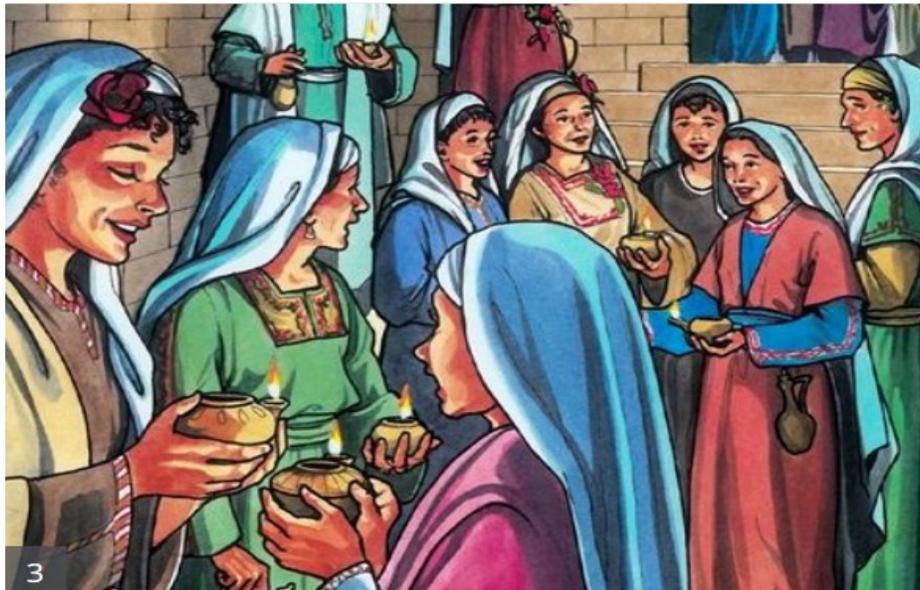
In Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus taught the importance of being ready for His return when he told the parable of ten virgins...

Jesus was teaching His disciples about the kingdom of heaven and said...





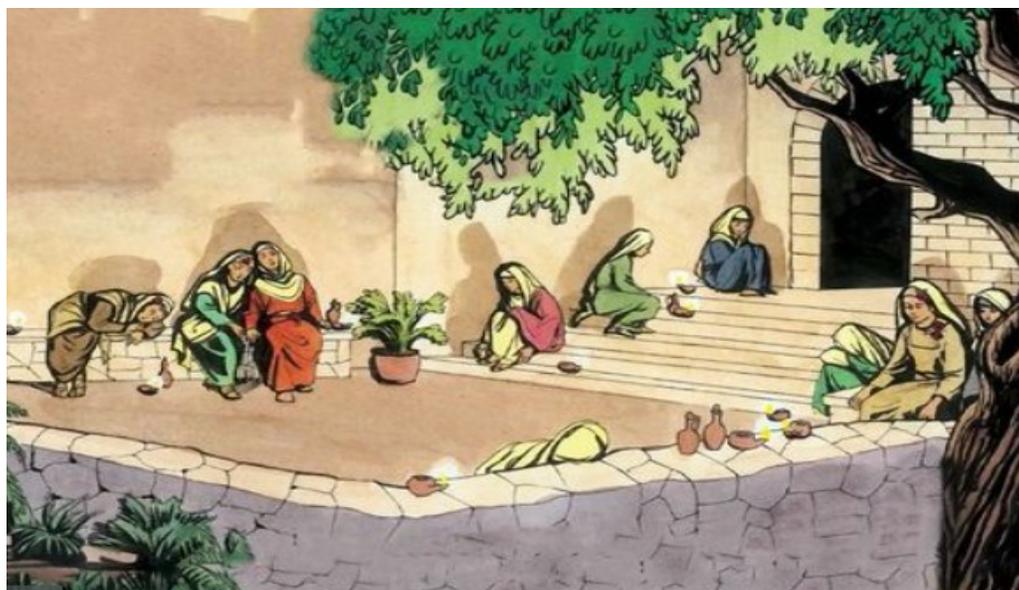
At that time, the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins (bridesmaids) who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.



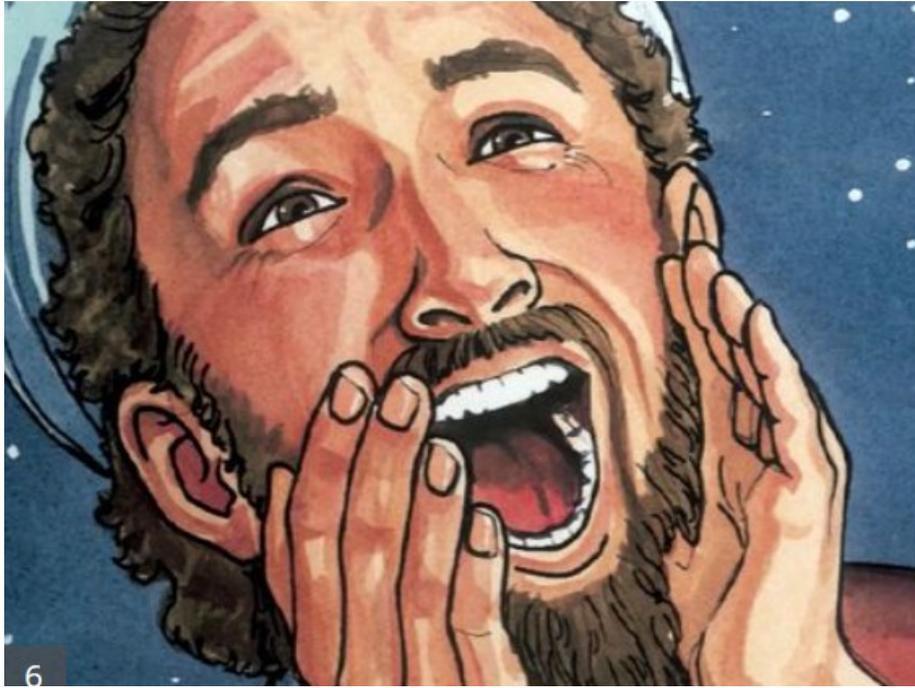
Five of the virgins were foolish, and five were wise.



When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take extra olive oil with them. But the wise ones took flasks of olive oil with their lamps.



When the bridegroom was delayed for a long time, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.



But at midnight there was a great shout, “Look! The bridegroom is here! Come out to meet Him!”



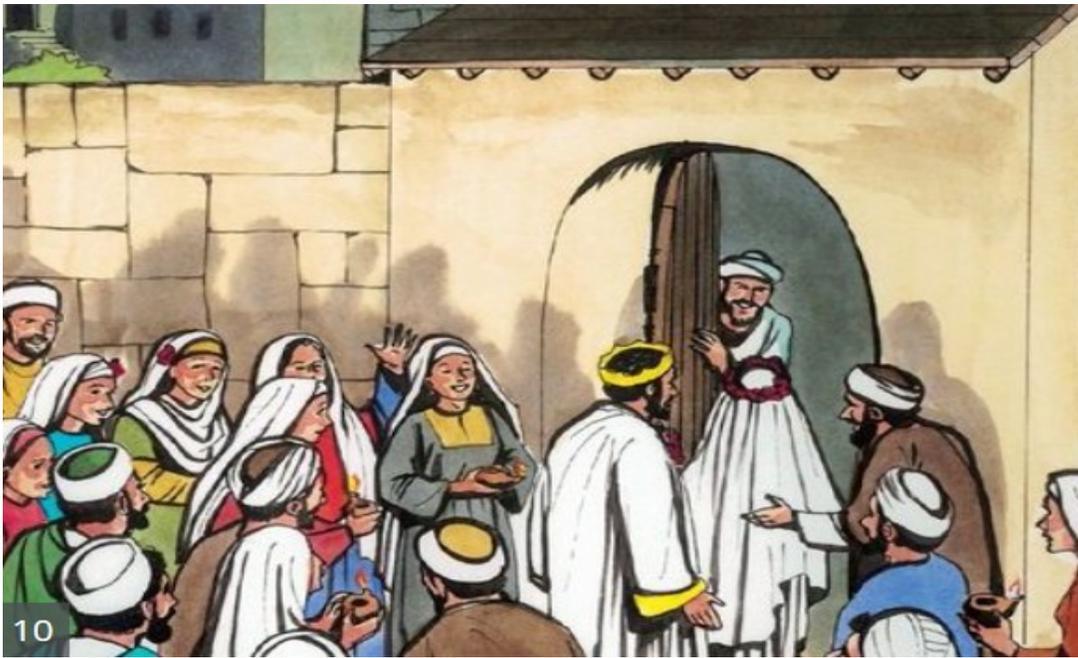
Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.



The foolish ones said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.”



“No,” they replied. “There won't be enough for you and us. Go instead to those who sell oil, and buy some for yourselves.”



But while they had gone to buy it, the bridegroom arrived...



..and those who were ready went inside with Him to the wedding banquet. Then the door was shut.



Later the other virgins returned saying, “Lord! Lord! Let us in.” But He replied, “I tell you the truth. I do not know you.”

“Therefore, stay alert,” said Jesus, “for you do not know the day nor the hour when the Son of Man is coming.”



The whole point of what Jesus was teaching with this parable and what Paul was explaining to the Thessalonians is that **we need to live so that when Jesus does return, we will BE READY!!**



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