

PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

MATTHEW 25:1-13 - ERIC SIMPSON - OCTOBER 30, 2016



Lamps were a very important commodity during the first century as a person would not be allowed out on the streets at night without a lamp burning. To keep your lamp lit was a sign of diligence and responsibility, to run out of oil would be negligence.

Why didn't you bring enough oil for your lamps?

- Why didn't you live more of your days on earth preparing for eternity?
- Why didn't you devote yourself to know God more deeply?
- Why didn't you love your spouse more completely and your kids more unconditionally?
- Why didn't you discover your spiritual gifts and use them to advance the kingdom?
- Why didn't you get involved in the life of the church?
- Why didn't you take a bold and courageous step for Christ?
- ...
- Why didn't you develop a heart for your neighbors and the nations?
- Why didn't you pray great prayers?
- Why'd you spend so much time pursuing position and power and wealth?
- Why'd you allow insecurities and fears and pleasing others to drive you?
- Why did you waste so much energy worrying about tomorrow and miss the blessing of today?
- Why did you hear God's call and run the other way?
- Why weren't you prepared for the coming of the groom?

There's a spiritual drift in the human condition that if we're not attentive to and doing battle with then before we know it we're going to be looking in the rearview mirror of our lives with a pile of regret...saying...*too late, if only.*

spirituality of preparedness = don't put off to tomorrow what can be done today

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Fully-alive = when you're living in step with your calling (your Ephesians 2:10 purpose)

We're not all called to do the *same* thing but we're all called to do *something*.

- We're called to Christ (that's our salvation).
- We're called to become like Christ (that's our discipleship).
- We're called to serve others (that's our *Ephesians 2:10* purpose)