

Dark Days, Double Dose

Message Handout

Matthew 25:1–14 (NLT) — 1 “Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, 4 but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. 5 When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 “At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’ 7 “All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. 8 Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ 9 “But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’ 10 “But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. 11 Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’ 12 “But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’ 13 “So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return. 14 “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone.

1. Dark Days

1. Dark days are DEGENERATE
2. Dark days are CONFUSING
3. Dark days are LONG
4. Dark days are SLEEPY

2. Double Dosage

1. The Holy Spirit

1. **Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)** - 18 Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,

2. Prayer

1. **1 Thessalonians 5:17-18** - “Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
2. **Ephesians 6:18** - “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”
3. **Colossians 4:2** - “Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”
4. **Romans 12:12** - “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”
5. **Luke 21:36** - “Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”
6. **Philippians 4:6-7** - “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

3. Word

1. **Matthew 4:4 (NLT)** - 4 But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”