The Parable Of The Ten Virgins (Mt. 25:1-13)

Where & When: Jerusalem, most likely late Tuesday afternoon in Jesus' last week

Occasion Producing The Parable:

- Jesus has concluded His public ministry
  - His last words were His lament over Jerusalem's destruction (Mt. 23:37-39)
  - He will have no more public discussions & confrontations with the Jews
- Jesus' words in Mt. 24-25 were instructions heard only by His disciples (Mt. 24:1, 3)
  - He appears to have spent a quiet day Wednesday in solitude with His 12 apostles before the events on Thursday began to unfold (Mt. 26:1)
- The disciples' observations re: the temple complex and Jesus' warnings about its destruction led Him to warn all believers to be ready (Mt. 24)

Questions:

1) To properly understand the parable's background, find out what you can re: weddings in the 1st century Jewish world. To whom would these virgins be comparable in modern-day nuptials? (v. 1)

2) How are the 10 virgins described? (vv. 2-4)

3) What fact in v. 5a sets the stage for the rest of the parable? What did the virgins do? (v. 5b)

4) What happened unexpectedly? (v. 6) What reality set in for 5 of the virgins? (vv. 7-8a) What was their solution? (v. 8b)

5) Why was this a "failed solution?" (v. 9a) Instead, what were they told to do? (v. 9b)

6) Some have thought the 5 virgins who refused to share to be selfish…even "stingy." Be able to explain why they were not. *[Think about faith, character, etc. Consider these passages in your answer:* 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 1:5; 2 Pet. 1:5-11*]*

7) What inevitable truth does v. 10 declare? (Mt. 24:36-39, 42, 44)

8) What happened in vv. 11-12? What does this emphasize? (Heb. 9:27)

9) What is the parable's final exhortation? (v. 13)

10) How does this parable emphasize the importance of preparation? (2 Pet. 3:10-18)

11) What is the parable's ***main*** lesson? What about some secondary lessons?