

Refrigerator Notes 12 November 2017  
"Are You Prepared for a Saving Faith"  
Matthew 25: 1-13

1. I asked at the beginning of the Sermon "How many of you have ever run out of Gas?"
2. My analogy of running out of gas was the same as the "Five Virgins (maidens) who ran out of oil for their lamps in the parable of the 'Ten Virgins'.
3. My second question was "why is it seemingly as often today as people did years ago, with all of the advantages of technology available are people still running out of gas?"
4. The third and last question I asked was "Are You Prepared for a Saving Faith?"
5. In our text, it is not gasoline that is lacking, but olive oil "the fuel burned in the lamps of Jesus' day.
6. I mentioned that our text for the morning was an apocalyptic that death with the end time.
7. In the previous chapter of Matthew 24, Jesus told several parables but all of the parables had three themes in common: being prepared for Jesus return.
8. Being prepared met bearing good fruit, being watchful and being wise enough to understand the world as it turns.
9. I also mentioned that modern day Christians were without disciple, endurance, don't like suffering or pain and don't like waiting on anything or anybody, but they all wanted to get to heaven.
10. The overall thrust of our parable is that Christ will return at an unknown hour and that His people must be ready.
11. Being ready for Christ's return ultimately involves one major thing which manifests itself in several areas of our lives saints: If we are to be ready, we must be born again through saving faith in Jesus Christ...His death, burial and literal resurrection from the dead (John 3:16; 14:6; Romans 10:9 and 10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:1-10).
12. Saving faith in Jesus Christ should manifest itself in every aspect of our lives, which means the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) that should reflect some growth in your spiritual life.
13. There should be a desire for greater holiness and less sin in your life and a consistent looking for Jesus coming will mark our lives.
14. I quoted Titus 2:11-14 that says, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."
15. Then a good summation would be the five virgins who had the extra oil represented the truly born again who were looking with eagerness to the coming of Christ.
16. The virgins have saving faith and have determined that, whatever occurs, be it lengthy time or adverse circumstances, when Jesus returns, they were going to be ready with eagerness
17. It would not have matter if they were sleeping or not or working or parting – be watchful and ready.
18. I believe that the five foolish virgins had no oil for the very same reasons people continue to run out of gas, even when the flashing message on their instrument panel tells them they are out. First, men and women don't believe the warning signs. They don't think things are as bad as

they are reported to be. "I must have more gas than that!" Or, "I've gotten this same message before, and I've always been able to get to the gas station before running out."

19. The Bible says that we are all sinners, under divine condemnation; condemned to hell.
20. The only way of salvation is for men to acknowledge their sin and to trust in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ: But to all who have received him" those who believe in his name" Jesus has given the right to become God's children (John 1:12).