

# Watching and Waiting

**Isa 40:28-31; Matt 25:1-13**

**Ven Wong Tak Meng | 8-9 Nov 2025**

# The Church Liturgical Calendar



# Advent (“Coming”) is a season of **waiting**

- **Countdown** to celebrate Christmas: **Christ’s First Coming** as the Lamb of God who dispels the darkness and takes away the sins of the world.
- Looking forward to **Christ’s Second Coming**: Strengthening our faith as we **watch and wait** for our Bridegroom and King.





**Parable of  
the Foolish  
and Wise  
Bridesmaids  
(Matt 25:1-13)**

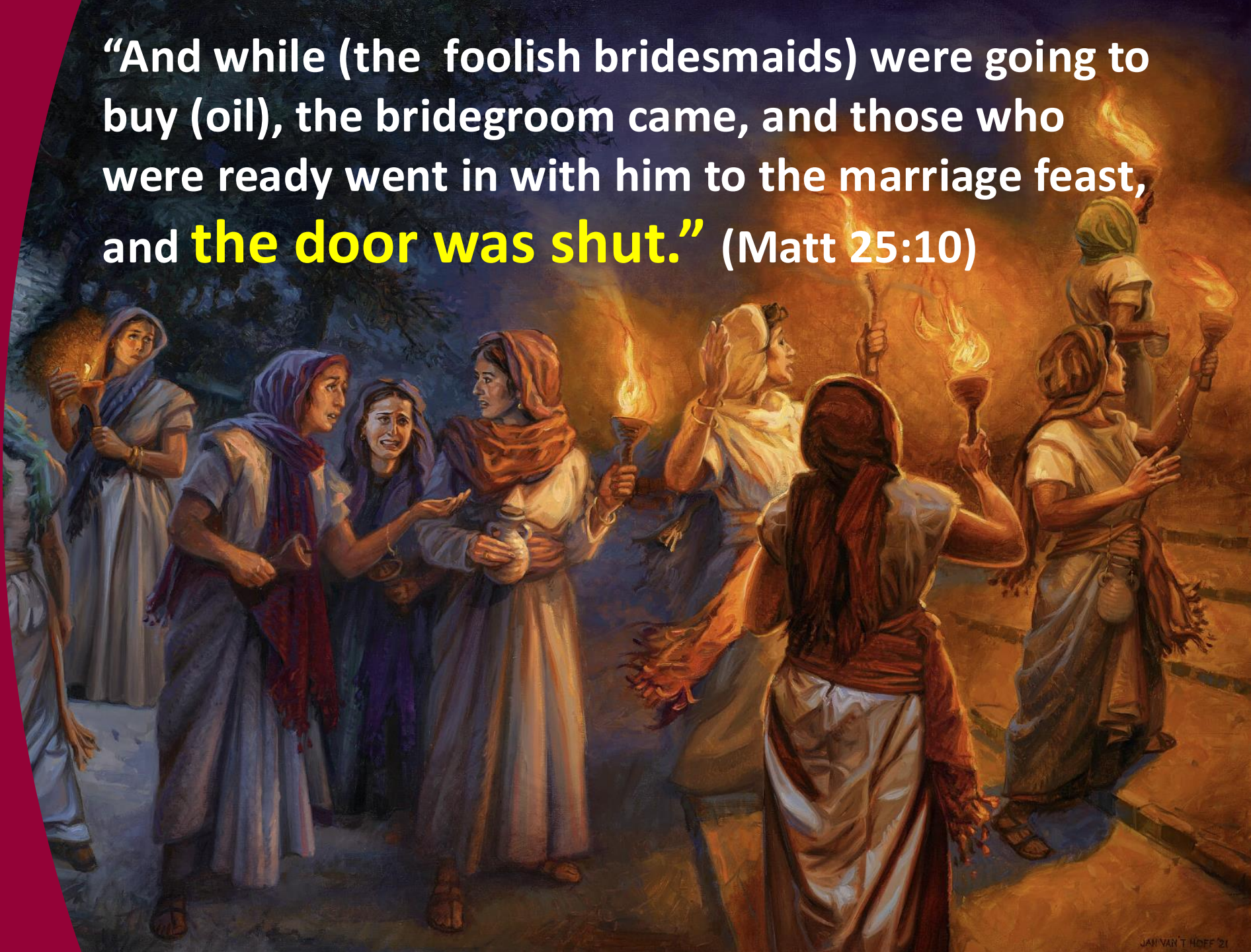
Story of Bridesmaids carrying torches **waiting** a long time for the arrival of the Bridegroom who was delayed. Five brought flasks of oil, but five didn't.





**Parable of  
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(Matt 25:1-13)**

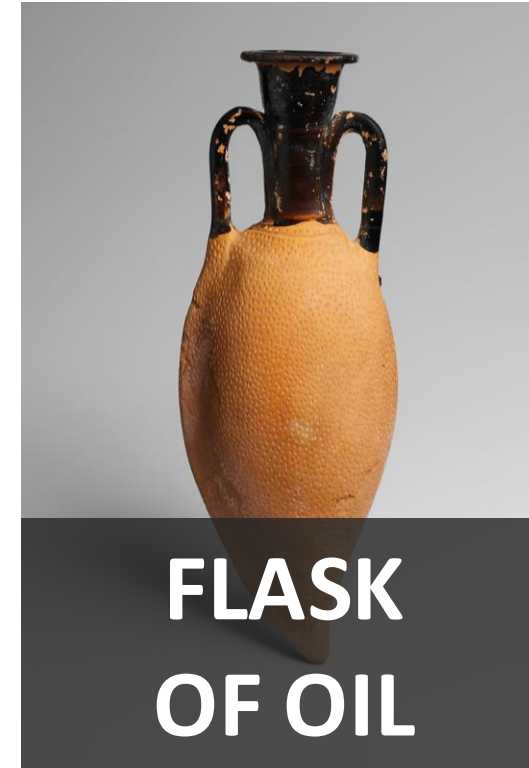
“And while (the foolish bridesmaids) were going to buy (oil), the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and **the door was shut.**” (Matt 25:10)



# **Waiting in readiness for the Bridegroom's Arrival requires:**



**Sustained  
by**

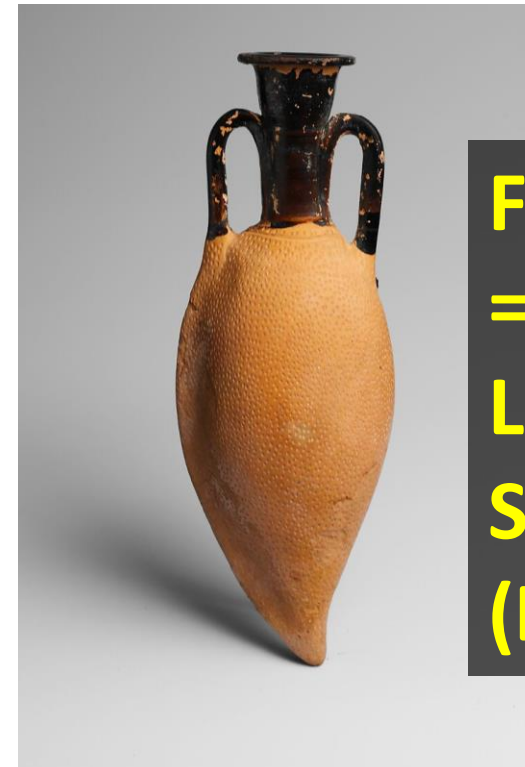




**Bridegroom's Arrival = Christ's Second Coming**  
**Long Wait = God's Sovereign Timing**  
**Bridesmaids' Readiness = Being Found Faithful**



**Sustained  
by**



**FLASK OF OIL**  
**= Our Inner  
Lives and  
Spirituality  
(Being)**

A male marathon runner is crouching on a paved road, looking down at his shoe. He is wearing a black tank top with a race bib that says "MARATHON" and the number "2". He is also wearing black shorts and black running shoes. The background shows a clear blue sky with some clouds and a grassy field.

# **The Christian Life is a long-distance journey**

**“Even youths shall faint  
and be weary, and young  
men shall fall  
exhausted...” (Isa 40:30)**





# The Third Rail

Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He **does not faint or grow weary;**  
**his understanding is unsearchable.**

He **gives power** to the faint, and to him  
who has no might **he increases strength...**

**but they who wait for the LORD**  
shall **renew their strength;**  
they shall **mount up with wings like eagles;**  
they shall **run and not be weary;**  
they shall **walk and not faint.**

(Isa 40:28-31)



How can we  
sustain the  
flame of our  
torch (doing)  
with **our flask**  
**filled with oil**  
**(being)?**





# 1. Deepen ourselves Spiritually

- **WORD OF GOD – BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW, OBEDIENCE**
- **SPIRIT OF GOD – FAITH, PRAYER, REPENTANCE, TRANSFORMATION**
- **SOLITUDE – DEVOTIONAL LIFE, INTIMACY WITH GOD, IMITATION OF CHRIST**



## 2. Learn to Care Well

- LISTENING, NOT FIXING
- SEEING PERSONS, NOT PROBLEMS
- CARING HOLISTICALLY, NOT MAGIC BULLET
- SERVING AS A TEAM, NOT AS LONE RANGERS





# 3. Practise Witnessing Winsomely

- FRESH ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS
- SEEING EACH PERSON AS SOMEONE TO BE KNOWN AND LOVED, NOT A TARGET TO BE HIT
- BEING SENSITIVE TO EACH PERSON'S BACKGROUND AND NEEDS
- APPROACHING AND SHARING WITH HUMILITY AND RESPECT, NOT WITH PRIDEFUL SUPERIORITY



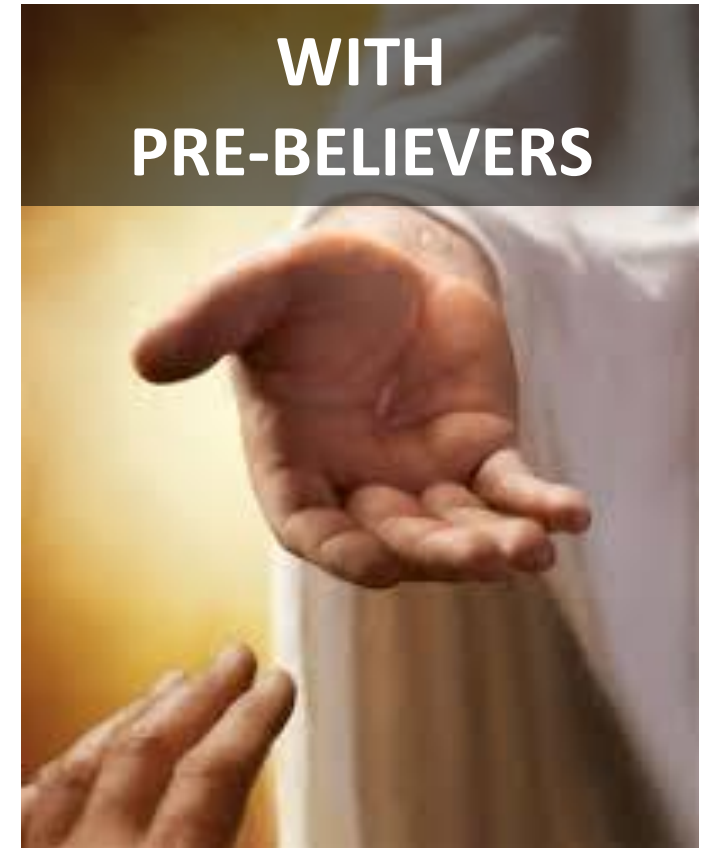


**WITH GOD**



**WITH ONE ANOTHER**

## **4. Live life Relationally**



**WITH  
PRE-BELIEVERS**



# FANNY CROSBY

The Hymn Writer



**Blind from birth, and yet...**

## **A Vision of Blessed Assurance**

**“Perfect submission, all is at rest.  
I in my Savior am happy and bless’d,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.”**

# Reflection Questions

1. Putting yourselves in the shoes of the bridesmaids (Matt 25:1-13), what mindset do you imagine guided those who brought flasks of oil, and those who didn't?
2. Why is so much of our “watching and waiting” focused on getting things done, rather than on our inner wellness, and our relationship with God and with others (relationality)?
3. In what practical ways can we remind ourselves and one another to be more mindful of our inner wellness, and our walk with God and with others?