

## 3 in 1: Discovering Our Triune God

### Key Point

In Jesus' story, the wise women were ready for the bridegroom. Jesus helps me to be ready for His return.

### Bible Words

The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command. . . . And the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

### Law/Gospel

In sin, I believe that my deeds are good enough to earn salvation. I neglect the oil of God's Word. When Jesus returns, He will reject those who are not waiting in faith. **The faith planted in my heart by the Gospel keeps my lamp trimmed, so I am ready for Christ's return and can be confident that I will live with Him in heavenly joy forever.**

### Holy Week Teaching

Jesus continued to teach His disciples in the week before His arrest, trials, crucifixion, and resurrection. You can find details about Jesus' Holy Week in Matthew 21–27; Luke 19–23; Mark 11–15; and John 12–19. The resurrection accounts follow these chapters in all four Gospels.

## Jesus Will Return: The Parable of the Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1–13

In the days leading up to His death, Jesus told the disciples a series of parables to teach them about the end times. Parables are stories that help believers understand how we are called to live as God's people. One parable Jesus told was about ten virgins.

In first-century Israel, it was common for a bridegroom to spend hours negotiating a bride price, money or goods given to the bride's family. Then, under the cover of night, he met the bride, attended by ten virgins, and escorted her back to his own house for the wedding feast.

In the parable, the ten virgins wait for the bridegroom to appear. Five virgins wisely brought oil to keep their lamps burning through the night. The other five foolishly brought no oil and were unprepared for the bridegroom's arrival. When the shout came that the groom arrived, the wise virgins met him, while the foolish virgins ran back to the oil dealer and returned too late to enter the wedding feast.

### What Does This Mean?

Jesus used this parable to help us understand that the Church, Christ's Bride, must be prepared to meet our Bridegroom when He returns. We prepare by waiting patiently and refilling our lamps of faith with the spiritual oil of God's Word and Sacraments. We come regularly to confess our sins, receive Absolution, and hear God's Word.

Those who reject Christ and are not prepared for His return will be condemned. But faithful Christians look ahead with joy to the day when Christ our Bridegroom returns to resurrect our physical bodies and take us to eternity to live with Him. What joy we'll experience in the marriage feast that has no end (Revelation 19:6–9)!

### Prayer

*Dear Lord, thank You for the blessing of eternal life. Keep us watchful as we await Your second coming. In Jesus' name. Amen.*