

READY OR NOT.... HERE I COME! (MATTHEW 25: 31 & 1-13)
(Last Sunday in the church year)

Intro: *The mule blew first...* (verse 31)

I. THE BRIDEGROOM'S COMING! (verses 1-5)

- A. Here in this parable is a picture of a grand Jewish wedding
- B. The bridesmaids are in a house, waiting to join the wedding processional
- C. There are two types of bridesmaids: wise and foolish (prepared & unprepared)

II. THE BRIDEGROOM'S HERE!!! (verses 6-10a)

- A. It is midnight..... wake up girls!
- B. Oooooops..... some have oil for their processional lamps and some do not
- C. When some, in a panic, went out to buy oil, they missed the arrival of the bridegroom

III. THE BRIDEGROOM'S GONE... AND THE DOOR IS SHUT (verses 10b-13)

- A. At this point the parable and reality meet...
- B. Parables have one major point: **v.13 - *Be alert , you don't know the day or hour***

IV. WHAT IS THE BRIDEGROOM'S MESSAGE TO US?

- A. Not all who say they await Jesus' second coming are ready for it (2 Tim. 3:5)
- B. Complacency has set in for many living between Jesus' first coming (Christmas) and His second coming (Judgment day); they are "sleeping" and unprepared
- C. His return will be sudden, visible, audible (1 Thess. 4:16)
- D. Preparedness is not transferable: *God has no spiritual grandchildren* (Prov. 9:12)
- E. There will be no second chance (the door will be shut - Heb. 9:27)
- F. There will be no warning; we must be ready at any time (1 Thess. 5:1-2)

Concl: The childhood game – "**Hide & Seek**": *ready or not... here I come!*