



SERMON OUTLINE FOR NOVEMBER 23, 2014

“Batteries Not Included”

Matthew 25:1-13

INTRODUCTION: *Batteries not included used to be a big deal (in spite of the “Energizer Bunny”)*

- I. JESUS SPOKE NOT OF FLASHLIGHTS & BATTERIES BUT OF LAMPS & OIL
 - A. Ten virgin bridesmaids had to prepare their processional lamp-torches (Matthew 25:1)
 - B. All slept... but five were not too bright... and forgot the oil for their lamps (vv. 2-4)
 - C. The bridegroom came for the wedding processional & they were not ready (vv.5-9)
 - D. These five foolish bridesmaids were refused entrance to the wedding (vv. 9-12)
 - E. In this parable, Jesus warns us to be ready for His coming at world’s end (v.13)

- II. JESUS WAS REALLY SPEAKING ABOUT US BEING READY FOR JUDGEMENT DAY (verse 13)
 - A. “Sleep” in Scripture can refer to death (1 Thessalonians 4:14)
 - B. NOTE: All ten bridesmaids fell asleep... the point was five forgot their lamp oil
 - C. There are two types of “church-goers”
 1. Wise/filled with the Spirit/trusting in Christ/prepared for Judgement Day
 2. Foolish/disregarding the Spirit/trusting in self/ unprepared for Judgement Day
 - D. The foolish church-goer does not treasure God’s Word & Sacraments (like Esau – Hebrews 12:15-16)

III. WE MUST ASK OURSELVES:
 ARE MY BATTERIES CHARGED...
 IS MY OIL READY...
 AM I PREPARED FOR JUDGEMENT DAY?

- A. Are you a wise or a foolish bridesmaid?
- B. Jesus our bridegroom had paid the price for our “batteries” & “oil”
- C. He paid the dowry price so we could be His bride
- D. At the cross it’s as if He said to you & me:
 “*With this cross, I thee wed.*”
- E. As we wait for His return for us and the eternal wedding feast in heaven, He provides us with all we need to “keep our batteries charged & our “lamps filled with oil”: His wonderful Word & Sacraments
- F. Whether we are asleep in death or are alive when Jesus returns, Jesus our Bridegroom has defeated death

CONCLUSION: Our marriage to Him is NOT “*unto death us do part*”, but like the *Energizer Bunny batteries*... it will keep going & going & going... for all eternity.