

Homily, Sunday XXXIII Ordinary Time.  
By Fr. Juan Carlos Castillo Mayorga.

Brothers and Sisters. What does the Lord invite us to do today? First, let's avoid the attitude of the 5 imprudent virgins who ran out of oil. And second, we should imitate the other 5 virgins, who were prudent and reserved oil for the lamps until the husband arrived taking them to the wedding party.

The imprudent virgins were foolish. What does it mean to be foolish? That they were ignorant and did not know what they wanted. The ignorant person is foolish and shameless. An example of this is when the 5 imprudent virgins **demanded** oil from the 5 prudent virgins. The imprudent ran out of oil, and without light, they were in the dark. Darkness is the absence of God. This is something that the other 5 virgins were very clear about. Because they were prudent, they carried the oil with them.

The lamp symbolizes our heart, and the oil, wisdom; that is, Christ, who is the eternal wisdom of the Father. Each time we participate in the Eucharist, Christ is given to us as the food and drink of salvation. Thus, He fills the lamp of our heart, with the grace of his hope. It gives us the strength to continue waiting for his happy return.

About this topic, in the second reading, St. Paul speaks beautifully. The community of Thessalonica, wanted to know the when and the how of the Lord's return, because they thought that it was immediately after his ascension.

St. Paul, to encourage them in hope, explains to them what the liturgy of the Lord's return would be like, with simple, easily understood words. The most important thing in this text is not whether the return of the Lord will be exactly as Saint Paul describes it, but because of our faith, hope and charity, those of us who believe in Christ will be resurrected to a new life by the power of His grace and of his infinite mercy. It does not matter when or where or how the return of Christ will happen; What is certain is that the Lord will return again and take us with him to enjoy the sweetness of his kingdom.

Heaven is our hope and our goal. If Christ is within our heart, our prayers, works of mercy and reception of the sacraments, will be synonymous with the prudence that God wants of us. When he returns, we will be prepared with our lamps lit.