

***Devotion given at the Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting on Sept. 10, 2016  
by Brother Payton Chen based on “The Parable of the Ten Virgins 十童女的  
比喻” from Matthew 馬太福音 25:1-13***

Matthew 15:11-13

<sup>11</sup> “Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’

<sup>12</sup> “But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’

<sup>13</sup> “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

<sup>11</sup> 其餘的童女隨後也來了，說：『主啊，主啊，給我們開門！』

<sup>12</sup> 他卻回答：『我實在告訴你們，我不認識你們。』

<sup>13</sup> 所以，你們要警醒，因為那日子，那時辰，你們不知道。」



I was shopping with my mum last Monday. As we were walking back to the car, she sighed that the Mid-Autumn Festival is here again. What she really meant was that “the year” is almost over. My mum was from China and to many Chinese this is the second most important festival after the Chinese New Year. This made me reflect on the time I spent during the past nine months. I was in school so I spent most of my time on my studies, and with family and friends. But during this time did I grow spiritually?

Although I believe that Jesus’ second coming would not happen before I die, the parable of the Ten Virgins reminds me that I should always stay alert as if the Lord will come tomorrow. We must always hold to a sense of the imminent return of Jesus Christ. He could return tonight or tomorrow. Are you ready? In Matthew 25:1-13, the parable tells us that we must be prepared for His return, even when it seems a long way off. As believers we want to be like the wise Virgins and not the foolish ones. Be ready. Be prepared. We should live faithfully for God and grow spiritually despite the adversities we may face. Do not be like the foolish Virgins who discovered that they did not have the oil they needed to meet the bridegroom. Jesus is warning us in this parable that there will be people who act like Christians, and think they are Christians, but they do not have the “oil” to be with Christ. They will not be saved at the return of our Lord.