

Matthew 25:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Analysis

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut (κέκλεισται, kekleistai—perfect passive, 'stands shut' with permanent results). The timing is devastating: the foolish leave to seek oil, and in their absence the bridegroom arrives. **They that were ready** (αἱ ἔτοιμοι, hai hetoimoi)—the prepared ones—enter the wedding feast.

The closed door is final. Perfect tense emphasizes permanence: once shut, it remains shut. This depicts the eschatological finality of Christ's return: no second chances, no appeals, no entry after the fact. Readiness is determined before the Bridegroom's arrival, not after. The 'marriage' (γάμος, gamos) is the Lamb's wedding supper (Revelation 19:7-9)—eternal fellowship with Christ reserved for those found ready, those possessing the Spirit's indwelling reality.

Historical Context

Once ancient wedding feasts began, latecomers were excluded—admission was only for invited, prepared guests. The shut door protected the celebration's sanctity and prevented disruptions. Jesus uses this cultural detail to illustrate the irreversible nature of final judgment: opportunities end, mercy's door closes, and only the prepared enter eternal rest.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be 'ready' when the Bridegroom comes—how do you cultivate lasting preparedness?
2. How should the finality of the 'shut door' affect your urgency in evangelism and personal discipleship?
3. Are you living as though the door remains open indefinitely, or with sober awareness that it will shut—perhaps soon?

Interlinear Text

ἀπερχομένων δὲ αὐτοῦ ἀγοράσαι ἤλθεν ὁ νυμφίος
while they went And him to buy came the bridegroom
G565 G1161 G846 G59 G2064 G3588 G3566

καὶ αἱ ἔτοιμοι εἰσῆλθον μετ' αὐτοῦ εἰς τοὺς
and G3588 they that were ready went in with him to G3588
G2532 G2092 G1525 G3326 G846 G1519

γάμους καὶ ἐκλείσθη ἡ θύρα
the marriage and was shut the door
G1062 G2532 G2808 G3588 G2374

Additional Cross-References

Luke 13:25 (Parallel theme): When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are:

Matthew 24:44 (Parallel theme): Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

1 Peter 1:13 (Parallel theme): Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Revelation 22:20 (Parallel theme): He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Psalms 95:11 (Parallel theme): Unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

Matthew 25:6 (Parallel theme): And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Genesis 7:16 (Parallel theme): And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

2 Timothy 4:8 (Parallel theme): Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.