

# Matthew 25:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

## Analysis

**Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps** (τότε ἡγέρθησαν πᾶσαι αἱ παρθένοι ἐκεῖναι καὶ ἐκόσμησαν τὰς λαμπάδας ἐκυτῶν, tote ēgerthēsan pasai hai parthenoi ekeinai kai ekosmēsan tas lampadas heautōn). Both groups awoke immediately and **trimmed** (ἐκόσμησαν, ekosmēsan—'adorned, put in order') their lamps—cutting burnt wicks and adding oil to ensure bright flames for the procession.

The critical moment of crisis reveals hidden realities: the foolish virgins' lamps **are gone out** (v. 8—σβέννυνται, sbennyntai, 'are being extinguished'). External appearances identical until testing. All had lamps, all slept, all awoke—but only the wise had sustaining oil. The trimming represents self-examination in light of Christ's coming: spiritual inventory before meeting the Bridegroom. For the foolish, this examination exposes fatal deficiency.

## Historical Context

Wedding torch maintenance was essential—burnt wicks produced dim, smoky flames unsuitable for a joyful procession. The trimming process was routine but critical. Jesus uses this mundane detail to illustrate spiritual preparedness: profession must be backed by reality, or the 'lamp' fails when most needed.

## Related Passages

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What happens when you 'trim your lamp'—examine your spiritual life honestly before God?
2. Can you distinguish between external religious activity ('carrying a lamp') and internal Spirit-sustaining reality ('having oil')?
3. How does the reality of Christ's imminent return (the 'midnight cry') expose areas of spiritual presumption in your life?

## Interlinear Text

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τότε ἡγέρθησαν πᾶσαι αἱ παρθένοι ἐκεῖναι καὶ

**Then**      **arose**      **all**      G3588      **virgins**      **those**      **and**  
G5119      G1453      G3956      G3933      G1565      G2532

ἐκόσμησαν τὰς λαμπάδας ἀυτῶν

**trimmed**      G3588      **lamps**      G846  
G2885           G2985

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 12:35** (Parallel theme): Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

**2 Peter 3:14** (Parallel theme): Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.