

**FR.TK. REFLECTIONS 32<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY YEAR A 2023:**

**BE PREPARED:**

Wisdom and intelligence are somehow connected. wisdom is more than intelligence. we have people who are very intelligent but not wise! wisdom is that ability to see greater mysteries of life in depth, it is gained through **experience, learning and meditations**. We see Jesus explaining wisdom in today's gospel (Mt. 25:1-13).

In an African context, wedding is for all people, it is a communal function, it is not an hours function it is a process, taking a lot of time hence there is a lot of **preparation and dedication before and during the celebrations**.

Young men and young ladies have to participate mostly the night before the big day at the home of the bride hence they should be properly dressed. The young ladies have to be on their Sunday best because in the process they might as well meet their future husbands hence have to be impressive. It is always a pity and tragedy to be excluded from such function or even to be locked out.

Imagine such a set up in our gospel today when out of **confusion, lack of preparation last minutes preparation** some of these young cute ladies being locked out of the function!. Already the bridegroom with his party have arrived late perhaps due to the on going rains in Kenya, traffic jams on the road as a result of opposition demonstration on the streets due to escalating food stuff and lack of employment or due to presidential long motorcade seeing King Charles 111 off during his recent visit. Perhaps the bridegroom party delayed purposely to see whether they are awaited.

The wise girls had taken precautions over all these hence they had set their lamp on gear with extra oil in case of the delay. They were **prepared for any eventuality**. The foolish ones assumed so much that everything will be timed to favor their situation, they got involved in other unnecessary things like Going to saloon to make **their hair, manicure and pedicure choosing their dressing code** thus forgetting to **refill their lamps and carry extra oil!** what a tragedy and

social embarrassment for these bridesmaids to be locked out when the bridegroom arrives late since they had gone to look for the oils. They had all beautiful magnificent lamps but without oil cannot give light at all.

Don't we all face such situation in our society today as we prepare for the coming of our lord Jesus. How are we prepared for his coming, are our lamps and oils on standby? By God's grace we are in the kingdom of God here on earth, the bridegroom is about to come to the wedding feast of heaven, are we ready for this. We are called either to be like the wise or the foolish ladies, the choice is up to each and everyone of us. We must be alert not to miss the boat it will be tragic for us to spend our lives in the kingdom here on earth and miss the final chapter in the kingdom of salvation. Let's not rely on the last minute's preparation. Christ is inviting us as friends of the bridegroom to prepare his wedding feast making us his modern counterparts of the five wise ones and awaits his glorious return that we may go with him to his eternal banquet.

We prepare all these through **prayer and works of mercy**. Let's us not be caught unaware due to short lived pleasures and delusions of this passing world. We were all given enough oil in our **Baptism, confirmation and by virtue of our ordination and we refill all these through prayer and good works that is our extra oil** and it can run out through **negligence of prayer**. We cannot borrow someone's **faith, grace for our own spiritual well being**. We are all responsible for this oil.

We are being prepared for the coming of our lord in this parable.

**BE WISE ALWAYS.**