

**ADELAIDE DEAF COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**10th Nov.2002**  
**Ready or Not, HE'S Coming!**  
**Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25, 1 Thess. 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13**

Many people today feel that several things are happening that seems to show that the end of the world is coming. The terrorism of Sept.11 and Bali, the wars, earthquakes, drought, bushfires everywhere, the rise of the Muslim religion (is this the anti-Christ?) etc all seem to point towards it. However, we have been warned not to make guesses, but to always be spiritually ready. The story of the parable, the Ten Virgins, as told by Jesus Himself, explains this. Always be ready.

A friend told me his suburb was blacked out. A truck crashed into a stobie pole, brought the power lines down. He only had one small candle, no batteries. The candle didn't last long. So, he asked his neighbour if he could spare a candle. No, only two, and wanted to keep both, in case power failure went long time. He decided to walk to service station to buy more candles. But no power meant business had to close, couldn't see or sell anything. Very cross now, he started walking back, when the lights came on. Ahhhh. He got home, and discovered that he missed his favourite TV show. Boy, he was he cross! But if he had prepared properly, had spare candles, this wouldn't have happened.

**1. Be ready at anytime.**

"Watch out, for we do not know when the Son of Man is coming." (Matt.25.12) There are 27 books in the New Testament, and 22 of them speak of Christ's return. That's a lot! And we need to take this very seriously. Yes, it's true that Jesus will return.

**2. Now is the time to get ready.**

Five of the bridesmaids were wise, and took extra oil. When they saw the bridegroom come, they were able to go in with him. But the other five missed it, because they went out trying to buy more oil. And when they came back, the groom said he didn't know them, and refused to let them come in.

You could say its like a TV station, they televised TV show one hour late after blackout, bad luck to those who missed when they went out to buy candles.

**3. All things are ready, but are you?**

The five virgins (bridesmaids) were very excited when they saw bridegroom coming. They went into heaven with him, and door closed. The bridegroom is Jesus. The virgins or bridesmaids are Christians who were waiting patiently for Last Day, were always ready for this. The other five were ready too, but their faith got tired, became weak, and got distracted with worldly things. By the time they realized they should get back to Jesus, it was already too late. The Last Day door was shut. Don't let this happen to you. Always be ready to meet Jesus Christ. Amen.