

# THE PARABLE OF THE WISE AND FOOLISH STUDENTS

By Rod

*Based on Matthew 25 vv 1-13. This covers the aspect of being 'prepared'. The idea that 'the hour is not known' is not really explored – except for the foolish one(s) who should have known!*

## CAST

*Narrator A Male or female. The voice of the foolish student(s)*  
*Narrator B Male or female. The voice of the wise student(s)*  
*Wise student(s) Male or female. Could be any number.5 in Jesus' parable.*  
*Foolish student(s) Male or female. Could be any number.5 in Jesus' parable*  
*Teacher/Invigilator Male or female.*

*Some direction is given for the students and teacher but they need to improvise as much as possible to respond to the narration. On set there could be some desks arranged for 'revision' and for the examination.*

Narrator A Once upon a time there were 10(?) students. [*Enter students*]

Narrator B 5(?) of them were wise. [*The wise ones move to one side, looking 'wise'*]

Narrator A And 5(?) of them were foolish. [*The foolish ones move to the other side, looking 'foolish'*]

Narrator B All of them had an important examination at the end of the year.

Narr A All of them were worried about this examination.

Narr B 5(?) of them, when told the date of the examination by their teacher, [*Teacher mimes telling wise group*] each thought to themselves “That’s a long way ahead. I’d better make a careful note of it in my diary”. [*They write in diaries*]

Narr A 5(?) of them, when told the date of the examination by their teacher, [*Teacher mimes telling foolish group*] each thought to themselves “That’s a long way ahead. I can forget about that for now.”

Narr B The wise students decided “We’d better go to less parties now, so that we can spend more time revising for our important examination”. [*Wise group mime agreeing this and revising at desks*]

- Narr A The foolish students decided “We’d better go to more parties now as we won’t be able to go to so many near the time of our important examination”. *[Foolish group mime partying]*.
- Narr B The date of the examination drew nearer.
- Narr A All of them grew more worried about their important examination.
- Narr B All of them received advice from their teacher about drawing up a revision programme. *[Teacher mimes this]*
- Narr A All of them did draw up a revision programme. *[All students mime this sitting at their desks]*
- Narr B The wise students used the revision programme to decide what to revise each day. This helped them to use their revision time effectively. *[Wise group mime concentrated revision]*
- Narr A The foolish students used their revision programme for doodling on. They coloured it in. They underlined the important bits. They drew boxes around these and highlighted them in different colours. This helped them to while away their time while revising. *[Foolish group mime ‘distracted’ revision with lots of yawning, looking at watches, etc]*
- Narr B The date of the important examination drew even nearer.
- Narr A All of them grew even more worried about their important examination.
- Narr B The wise students told their teacher how worried they were and asked him to help them with the bits of the course they did not understand. *[Teacher and wise group assemble for ‘extra lesson’]*
- Narr A The foolish students told their friends how worried they were. Indeed they spent hours on their mobile `phones telling anyone who would listen, just how worried they were. *[Foolish group all talk on `phones]*
- Narr B The date of the important examination drew yet nearer.
- Narr A All of them grew yet more worried about their important examination.
- Narr B The wise students went to the shops to buy all the equipment they would need for their important examination; including ink cartridges for their pens and new batteries for their calculators. *[Wise group go off stage as if to the shops]*

- Narr A           The foolish students were so busy telling their friends how worried they were that they didn't have time to go to the shops. *[Foolish group are still on the 'phone]*
- Narr B           *[Reenter wise students]* Finally the day of the examination arrived.
- Narr A           All of them checked their diaries.
- Narr B           The wise students each said to themselves, "The examination is today, but I feel prepared and ready to do my best". *[Wise group check diaries and look confident]*
- Narr A           The foolish students each said to themselves, "Oh no, is the examination today? I didn't realise. I'm not ready". *[Foolish group check diaries and look really worried]*
- Narr B           The wise students each said to themselves, "I have all the equipment I need to help me in the exam: ink for my pen and a new battery for my calculator." *[Wise group hold up their pens, calculators, etc]*
- Narr A           The foolish students each said to themselves, "Help I have none of the equipment I need for the exam: my pen is out of ink and my calculator battery is flat." *[Foolish group mime this, etc]* They approached the wise students and asked, "Can we borrow some of your ink and calculator batteries?" *[Foolish approach Wise group asking for help. The two groups continue to mime the following exchange with gestures, etc]*
- Narr B           "Sorry", replied the wise students, "but we have just enough. If we lend to you none of us will have enough."
- Narr A           "What shall we do?" asked the foolish students.
- Narr B           "You'll have to go to the shops now and buy what you need for yourselves", replied the wise students.
- Narr A           So the foolish students rushed off to the shops. *[They rush off stage]*
- Narr B           The wise students then entered the examination room. *[Teacher ushers them 'in' they sit at desks]*
- Narr A           The time for the start of the examination arrived.
- Narr B           "You may begin", said the invigilator to the wise students. *[Mimed by teacher, checking his watch]*

Narr A        *[Enter Foolish group in haste]* By the time the foolish students arrived back from the shops the door of the examination room was shut. “It is too late”, said the invigilator, *[Teacher holds up his hand to halt them]* . “You may not come in. You may not sit the examination.” *[Foolish students look distraught, dejected and ashamed]*

Narr B        And the moral of the story is: “If you fail to prepare .....

Narr A        “Prepare to fail”.

Narr B        Or as Jesus put it ....

Narr A        “Keep watch, for you do not know the day or the hour.”

Narr B        The end.