



April 3, 2012

## Think Out of the Box

By Teresa Hampton

My husband and I travel quite a bit. Occasionally we see some odd things. We were driving through a town and looked up to see a large billboard. It had the words **Think Out of the Box**. Under those five words was a coffin! The advertisement was for a funeral home, urging people to prearrange the details of their funeral. It was clever advertising. Simple. To the point. It was intended to be a very serious message, but I must confess, it struck our funny bones. We laughed hysterically for the next few miles. To this day, the image of those words and the box beneath them is firmly fixed in my mind.

However, it leads me to another line of thought. When it comes to eternity, we should think out of the box. Preplanning is essential. Preparation *must* be made if we want to live with God eternally.

Jesus told a parable about the kingdom of heaven, in which He described ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom (Matt. 25:1-13). Five of them were wise. They made preparation by taking extra oil with them. Five of them were foolish because they did not. The bridegroom was delayed, so they slept. At midnight a call rang out that the bridegroom was coming. The ten virgins arose and trimmed their lamps, but the foolish virgins' lamps were going out. They asked the wise virgins for oil, but they told them they should go to those who sell oil, else all of them would run out. While they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him and the door was shut. The foolish virgins returned and begged that the door be opened, but the bridegroom said, "I do not know you." Jesus concluded the parable saying, "Watch, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."

The Lord's message is clear. We would all do well to *think out of the box*.

**Today's Verse:** *But the day of the Lord will come as thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and works that are in it will be burned up* (1 Peter 3:10).

If you would like to subscribe to **Wellspring**, send e-mail to [wellspringforwomen@hotmail.com](mailto:wellspringforwomen@hotmail.com) and type the word **subscribe** in the subject line.

Previous **Wellspring** articles have been archived at and <http://www.TheBible.net/wellspring> and <http://karnscoc.org/biblical-teachings/publications/wellspring/>