



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

November 9, 2008

### Pentecost 26 2008

Much of modern life operates on the basis of credit. Everybody borrows something from somebody. If you are baking a cake and do not have enough sugar you can borrow some from your neighbor. Most people buy their cars on a payment plan. Most homes are bought on a mortgage. Businesses operate on credit. Churches borrow money to build new facilities. A government runs short of money so it borrows from other governments.

Borrowing can be a good and useful thing as long as it is not abused. We are in an economic crisis because of the abuse of borrowing.

The use of credit though does have its limits. In terms of money there is a limit on how much we can borrow. And in terms of life there is a limit on the kind of things that can be borrowed.

In today's Gospel Jesus tells of five young women who had encountered that limit. They were bridesmaids at a wedding. 10 in all but Jesus was very clear -5 were foolish and 5 were wise. The distinction became apparent at the point of preparedness.

The role of the bridesmaid was to meet the groom and escort him to the celebration. Since the wedding was at night, each one carried a flaming torch. For some reason the groom was delayed and when he came 5 of the torches were running low on oil. The other 5 bridesmaids had allowed for such an emergency and brought along an extra supply. The foolish 5 had no extra supply and tried to solve the problem by borrowing from the others but their request was denied. Now that may seem harsh, selfish and uncaring but you know it is true to life in the realm of the things of the spirit.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Established in 1847*

210 North Main Street Versailles, KY 40383 859.873.3481 [info@stjohnsky.com](mailto:info@stjohnsky.com) [www.stjohnsky.com](http://www.stjohnsky.com)



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

November 9, 2008

You see there are some things that you can not borrow from somebody else.

Life allows us to borrow from one another in minor affairs, but in the major things that really matter you have only your own resources.

What I mean by this are the qualities of our character that hopefully reflect Christ.

We cannot borrow faith. We can read our bible, say our prayers, listen to other peoples stories and teachings but that cannot be our faith. We cannot borrow faith. It has to be our faith.

We cannot borrow love. We can see others love and we can be loved. But for us to love we have to be intentional in our loving.

Other qualities that Jesus would ask of us also can not be borrowed. We cannot borrow kindness. We cannot borrow care, we cannot borrow compassion.

These are all fruits of the spirit that are to be lived in a person who is a disciple of Jesus of Nazareth. If we are a disciple we have to be prepared to live out these qualities.

You see this parable of the 10 bridesmaids is often thought to say that we have to be ready when Christ comes and we do. We all say we are waiting for Christ to come and to be honest, we all think it is sometime off in the distant future. But Christ comes to us in every single person we meet. What Jesus is saying is that we need to be prepared with all the qualities of a Christ like life to meet him in everyone we meet.

What good is it if we are sweetness and nice to the manager at krogers if we treat the cash out girl awfully.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Established in 1847*

210 North Main Street Versailles, KY 40383 859.873.3481 [info@stjohnsky.com](mailto:info@stjohnsky.com) [www.stjohnsky.com](http://www.stjohnsky.com)



The Rev. Alan Sutherland, Rector

November 9, 2008

What good is it if we put on our best for the mayor but treat the garbage collector as something less?

What good is it if we come to church in our Sunday best attitude and the rest of the week live like nobody else matters?

We are called to be a disciple 24/7 and need to be prepared because, whether we like it or not, Christ comes to us in every person we meet.

We cannot borrow the qualities that Christ asks of us. We must be intentional about cultivating them in our own lives.

We cannot be somebody else. We have to be ourselves because there are just some things that we can never borrow.

Amen.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Established in 1847*

210 North Main Street Versailles, KY 40383 859.873.3481 [info@stjohnsky.com](mailto:info@stjohnsky.com) [www.stjohnsky.com](http://www.stjohnsky.com)