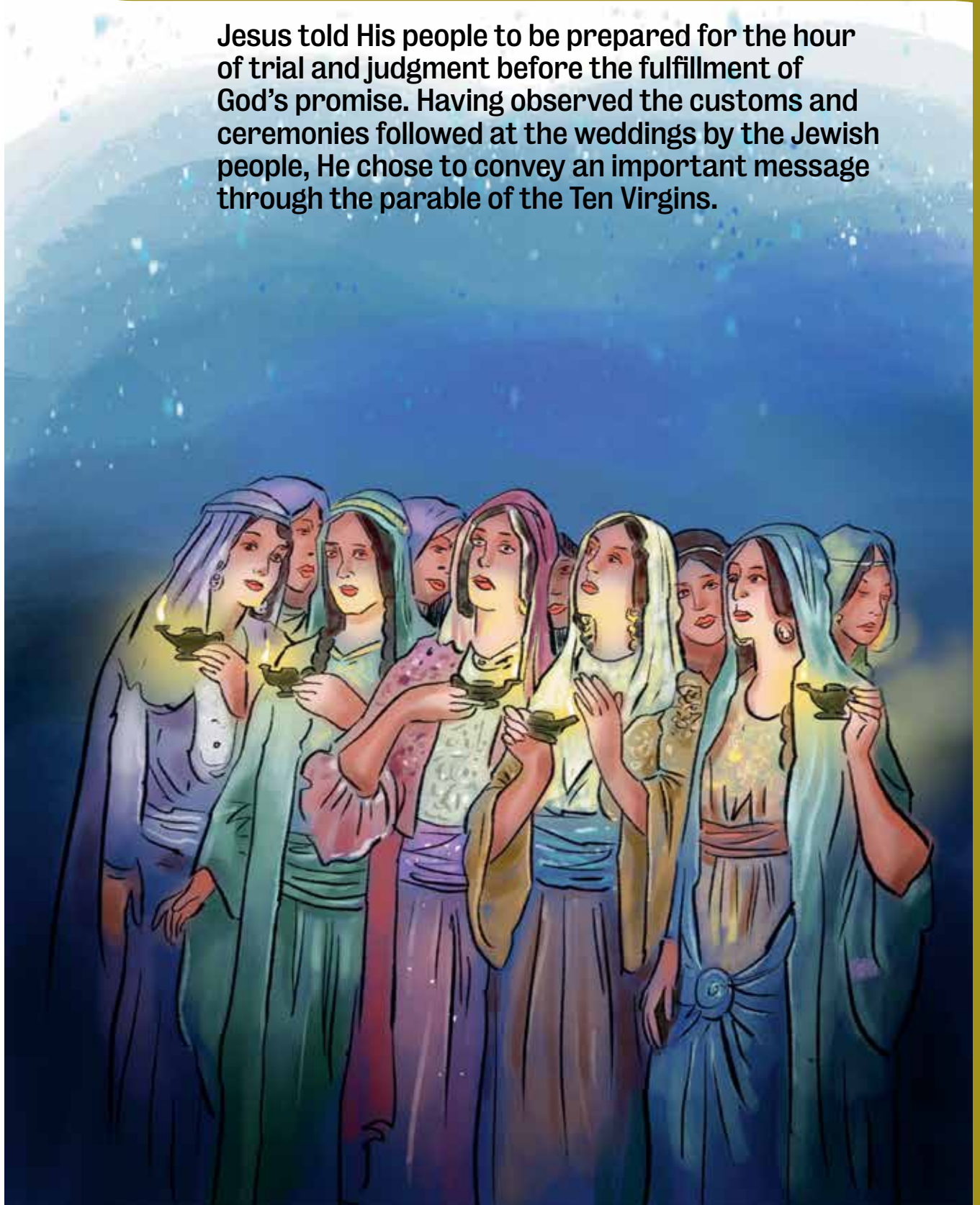




The Ten Virgins

Jesus told His people to be prepared for the hour of trial and judgment before the fulfillment of God's promise. Having observed the customs and ceremonies followed at the weddings by the Jewish people, He chose to convey an important message through the parable of the Ten Virgins.



Ten virgins were chosen to welcome the bridegroom before the ceremonial feast. The five wise ones among them came well prepared with enough oil for their lamps, but the foolish five did not bother to carry sufficient oil with them. When the bridegroom arrived well past midnight they were woken up by a welcome announcement.

The five wise virgins quickly replenished their lamps with oil while the foolish ones struggled with their flickering lamps. They begged for oil from the wise virgins who refused and rushed to receive the bridegroom.

Later, when the foolish virgins managed to find some oil and arrived at the feast, they found the doors had been shut. They begged the bridegroom to let them in but he refused and said he did not know them.

The wedding feast here refers to the Kingdom of God. Just like the ten virgins, we are all given an opportunity to play an important role in His kingdom using our God-given talents and intelligence.

Jesus expects us to be prepared to make use of the special gifts from God whenever the opportunity comes knocking; especially to be prepared when He comes again.

Insight



St. Joseph Vaz (1651- 1711) was a Goan priest who preached Christianity in Sri Lanka. He was the first non-European missionary to work there. He is credited with catering to thousands of faithful, building 15 churches and 400 chapels during his 24 years in Sri Lanka. He translated prayers and catechism into Sinhalese and Tamil. Pope Francis during his visit to Sri Lanka in 2015 declared this Goan missionary a saint. St. Joseph Vaz's ancestral house at Sancoale near Vasco has been preserved.



Word of God

Mathew 25: 10 – 13

So the foolish ones went off to buy some oil; and while they were gone, the bridegroom arrived. The five who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was closed. "Later the others arrived. 'Sir, sir! Let us in!' they cried out. 'Certainly not! I don't know you,' the bridegroom answered." And Jesus concluded, "Watch out, then, because you do not know the day or the hour."

