

Waiting With Wisdom

A Modern Day Parable inspired by Matthew 25:1-13

The drama coach told his students this story:

An audition on Broadway is like 10 actors who took their repertoire and went to meet the director. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. All were talented.

They sat in the green room, each waiting for the call to the stage. You could feel the tension. You could see the fear. You could smell the nerve. The walls were lined with floor to ceiling mirrors trimmed with bright white lights. Some saw their own beauty, some only saw their flaws.

The foolish actors brought their best song and monologue, but no extra material. They quickly grew impatient and bored, and quickly wound up huddled in a corner watching Tik-Tok videos and checking Instagram. But, the wise actors sat in front of the mirrors rehearsing lines, warming up their voices, doing breathing exercises to keep themselves calm and focused. They brought sheet music of many different genres and several scripts featuring various emotions to show their versatility.

Since the director was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep at midnight, there was a cry, "Director is in the house! Auditions in 15. Be ready with 2 songs and 2 dramatic pieces!" All the actors were jolted away and answered in true theatre fashion, "Thank you, 15!"

The foolish ones said to the wise, "Give us some of your material, we only brought one piece each. But the wise ones replied, "No, we may need them for callbacks. Go online and buy and download more for yourselves." When the foolish ones stepped outside to get a better signal, the director called all who were ready and the wise ones took the stage to begin. Then, the doors were locked.

Afterwards the other actors came and said, "Stage Manager, open the door for us!" They quickly realized that they had messed up one of the most important auditions of their lives. It showed in their red faces and tear-filled eyes. But, the Stage Manager said to them, "I don't know you. Therefore, be prepared, for you know not what the director will ask for."