



## Scared and Stressed Out (What Have You Been Afraid to Try?)

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### Four Things You Should Never Be Scared of Doing

1. Scared to **Change** (What have you been afraid to change?)
2. Scared to **Confront** (What have you been afraid to confront in your life?)
3. **Scared to Try** (What have you been afraid to try?)
4. Scared to **Confess or Repent** (What have you been afraid to admit?)

**Big Question:** What have you been afraid to change?

**Reading Text:** Matthew 25:1–9 (NIV)

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like **ten virgins** who **took their lamps** and went out to meet the bridegroom. **2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise.** **3** The foolish ones **took their lamps but did not take any oil** with them. **4** The wise ones, however, **took oil in jars along with their lamps.** **5** The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. **6** “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

**7** “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. **8 The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’** **9** “No,” they replied, ...

### I. An Example of People That Refused to Try Matthew 25:10–13 (NIV)

- **10** “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. **11** “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ **12** “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ **13** “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.
  1. The foolish virgins **never tried** to provide for themselves
  2. The foolish virgins **assumed** someone else would provide for them (without a covenant promise)
  3. The foolish virgins waited until the **last minute** to take inventory of a need they knew was coming
  4. The foolish virgins thought they had a **privileged** position that excluded them from consequences

## II. Six Things Jesus Taught Us About Trying Luke 14:25–35 (NIV)

### 1. Trying Requires You Set Priorities:

- 25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: 26 “If anyone comes to me and **does not hate** father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.

- A. Hate is use hyperbolically (It is an exaggeration to make a point)
- B. Hate implies a single focus that is relentless

### 2. Trying Requires Enduring Difficulties

- 27 And **whoever** does not carry their **cross** and follow me cannot be my disciple.

### 3. Trying Requires Planning (Sit down first, estimate, and be honest)

- 28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you **first sit down** and **estimate** the cost to see if you have **enough** money to complete it?

### 4. Not Trying Leads to Shame: (What are you sorry you never tried?)

- 29 For if you lay the foundation and are **not able to finish it**, everyone who sees it will **ridicule** you, 30 saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

### 5. Good Trying Requires an Honest Assessment

- 31 “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider **whether he is able** with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?

### 6. Good Trying Requires Negotiating and Listening

- 32 **If he is not able**, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will **ask for terms of peace**. 33 In the same way, those of you who do not **give up everything** you have cannot be my disciples.
- 34 “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? 35 It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.” **Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.**”

**Next Time:** Scared to Confess and **Repent** (What Have You Been Afraid to Admit was Wrong?)