Gospel Matthew 25:1-13 Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus told his disciples this parable:
"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins
who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
Five of them were foolish and five were wise.
The foolish ones, when taking their lamps,
brought no oil with them,
but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.
Since the bridegroom was long delayed,
they all became drowsy and fell asleep.
At midnight, there was a cry,
'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'
Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.
The foolish ones said to the wise,
'Give us some of your oil,
for our lamps are going out.'
But the wise ones replied,
'No, for there may not be enough for us and you.
Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'
While they went off to buy it,
the bridegroom came
and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.
Then the door was locked.
Afterwards the other virgins came and said,
'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'
But he said in reply,
'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'
Therefore, stay awake,
for you know neither the day nor the hour."

1. What words, phrases, thoughts struck you as you read this Gospel and why?

2. What in this passage comforted you? What in this passage challenged you?

3. *Five of them were foolish and five were wise.* When have I behaved foolishly? Who has offered me wise counsel?

4. *Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.* How can I prepare my soul to meet the Lord? How can I limit the worldly pleasures and concerns that blur my awareness?

5. What is one way that God's grace came to you this past month?