



Bible Drama Scripts presents

NO TIME!

By Patricia Souder

SYNOPSIS: As the bridegroom approaches, Vera, representing the five wise bridesmaids, tries to wake Holda, representing the five foolish bridesmaids. Holda resents being awakened and admits she didn't take time to buy oil for her lamp even though bridesmaids were expected to provide light for the wedding procession. Holda's plaintive cry, "No time . . . no time at all . . . when the time comes," is a powerful reminder of the importance of being ready for Jesus' return.

SETTING: 1st century Jewish wedding ceremony where the bridesmaids light the way for the bridegroom to take his bride home for a wedding feast.

CHARACTERS: VERA and HOLDA, virgin bridesmaids.

PROPS: 2 tall torch lights would be ideal, but 2 old-fashioned oil lamps can also be used.
A soft cleaning cloth.

PERFORMANCE TIME: 3-4 minutes.

PERFORMANCE NOTE: Characters say lines together when marked with a star.

TOPICS: Priorities. The return of Christ. The kingdom of heaven. Time and eternity.

PERFORMANCE POSSIBILITIES: Worship services. Small groups. High school and college groups. Youth activities. Evangelistic outreaches.

BIBLE REFERENCE: Matthew 25:1-13: Jesus' parable of ten virgin wedding attendants.

VERA

*(Eyes closed. Head down as if sleeping.
Lifts head. Opens eyes. Cups ear, and
speaks excitedly.)*

It's time!

The bridegroom is coming!

(Shakes friend gently.)

*(Smiles and shakes her head, then
tries to wake Holda again.)*

Holda, wake up!

The bridegroom is coming!

Holda, we knew it could be late;
That's why we brought our lamps.
(Holds up her lamp and trims the wick.)

No! This is the bridegroom's wedding day.
He has the right to come any time he wants.
It's time for us to wake up
and do what we promised to do:
Light the way so the groom
can bring his bride home!

HOLDA

(Eyes closed. Head down as if sleeping.)

(Stretches irritably. Turns back on Vera.)

*(Yawns and opens one eye. Shakes head.
Speaks with exasperation.)*

The bridegroom is coming now?

(Yawns again.)

It's the middle of the night!

(Yawns again.)

This is no time for the bridegroom to come.

It's time to sleep.

(Shakes herself irritably.)

VERA

Come on, Holda. Wake up!

They'll be here soon.

(Looks shocked.)

What? You didn't bring oil?

(Refuses to take Holda's lamp.)

(Shakes head in disbelief.)

NO TIME TO BUY OIL?

What good is a lamp without oil?

(Polishes her lamp.)

Holda, I wish I could , , ,

but I don't have enough for both of us.

Holda, I am your friend . . .

HOLDA

(Sighs. Picks up her lamp and trims the wick half-heartedly. Hands lamp to Vera.)

Here, Vera, since you're so wide awake,
you can fill my lamp.

I didn't have time to get oil.

I was too busy.

I had to get a new robe . . .

Fix my hair . . .

Go places with my friends . . .

There was no time to buy oil.

Hey, get off my case already
and give me some oil.

Don't have enough?

Whatever happened to the good ole'
principle of sharing?

I thought you were my friend, Vera,
but now, when I need oil, you won't share.
You're not much of a friend!

VERA

But if I give you half of my oil,
Both our lamps will go out, and
neither of us will be able to provide
light for the wedding celebration.
That's why we're here, you know.

You can buy oil in the village.

(Lights her lamp.)

Yes, Holda, the bridegroom is coming.

You'd better hurry.

No time . . .

No time at all . . .

When the time actually comes.

HOLDA

(Flounces off in anger.)

There's no time to go to the village.

The bridegroom is coming.

You said so yourself.

BUT THERE'S NO TIME!

The celebration is about to begin.

(Becomes increasingly upset.)

What a bad time to learn there's no time!

No time to go to the village . . .

No time to buy oil.

No time . . .

No time at all . . .

When the time actually comes.