

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

January 12, 2017

Matthew 25:1-13 NASB

- 1 Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent.
- 3 **FOR WHEN THE FOOLISH TOOK THEIR LAMPS, THEY TOOK NO OIL WITH THEM,**
- 4 **BUT THE PRUDENT TOOK OIL IN FLASKS ALONG WITH THEIR LAMPS.**
- 5 Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep.
- 6 **BUT AT MIDNIGHT THERE WAS A SHOUT, 'BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM! COME OUT TO MEET HIM.'**
- 7 **THEN ALL THOSE VIRGINS ROSE AND TRIMMED THEIR LAMPS.**
- 8 **THE FOOLISH SAID TO THE PRUDENT, 'GIVE US SOME OF YOUR OIL, FOR OUR LAMPS ARE GOING OUT.'**
- 9 **BUT THE PRUDENT ANSWERED, 'NO, THERE WILL NOT BE ENOUGH FOR US AND YOU TOO; GO INSTEAD TO THE DEALERS AND BUY SOME FOR YOURSELVES.'**
- 10 **AND WHILE THEY WERE GOING AWAY TO MAKE THE PURCHASE, THE BRIDEGROOM CAME, AND THOSE WHO WERE READY WENT IN WITH HIM TO THE WEDDING FEAST; AND THE DOOR WAS SHUT.**
- 11 **LATER THE OTHER VIRGINS ALSO CAME, SAYING, 'LORD, LORD, OPEN UP FOR US.'**
- 12 **BUT HE ANSWERED, 'TRULY I SAY TO YOU, I DO NOT KNOW YOU.'**
- 13 **BE ON THE ALERT THEN, FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW THE DAY NOR THE HOUR.**

"Normally the bridegroom with some close friends left his home to go to the bride's home, where there were various ceremonies, followed by a procession through the streets – after nightfall – to his home. The ten virgins may be bridesmaids who have been assisting the bride; and they expect to meet the groom as he comes from the bride's house. Everyone in the procession was expected to carry his or her own torch. Those without a torch would be assumed to be party crashers or even brigands. The festivities, which might last several days, would formally get under way at the groom's house." D.A. Carson, Expositor's Bible Commentary

LESSONS OF THE PARABLE:

1. **Focus on the obvious Biblical principles. Don't strain the truths of the parable by trying to attach meaning to every detail.**

"The number 'ten' was greatly taken notice of, and used among the Jews: a congregation, with them, consisted of ten persons, and less than that number did not make one: and wherever there were ten persons in a place, they were obliged to build a synagogue." John Gill's Exposition of the Whole Bible

"Carelessness disposed them to drowsiness, drowsiness to sleep, deep sleep, which rendered them as unconscious of their danger as they were before inattentive to their duty." Adam Clarke Commentary

2. **The Bridegroom, Jesus, will return to the earth to receive His Bride. Some of the wedding party were ready to receive Him and some were not. What is the difference that made some ready and others not ready? Preparation versus neglect.**

NOTE: No one can prepare for you. Only you can prepare for you.

Hebrews 2:1-3 NASB

1 **For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.**

2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,

3 **how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?**

Matthew 25:8-9 NASB

8 **THE FOOLISH SAID TO THE PRUDENT, 'GIVE US SOME OF YOUR OIL, FOR OUR LAMPS ARE GOING OUT.'**

9 **BUT THE PRUDENT ANSWERED, 'NO, THERE WILL NOT BE ENOUGH FOR US AND YOU TOO; GO INSTEAD TO THE DEALERS AND BUY SOME FOR YOURSELVES.'**

3. **Don't let the earthly replace the spiritual in your heart and life. Don't let the necessities of this earth-life hijack the necessities of the spiritual life. Don't let the pleasures of this earth-life steal from you the treasures of His presence. Don't let what is good replace what is God.**

Luke 14:16-24 NASB

16 But He said to him, "A man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many;

17 and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, '**Come; for everything is ready now.**'

18 "**But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.'**

19 "**Another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.'**

20 "**Another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.'**

21 **And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.'**

22 And the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.'

23 And the master said to the slave, '**Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled.**

24 **For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.'"**

Colossians 3:1-4 NASB

1 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

4. **Seeking first the Kingdom of God and seeking the heavenly instead of the earthly will require you to “lose” in this earth-life things such as wealth, fame and popularity, careers and positions, material possessions, entertainment and hobbies, comforts and conveniences, etc.**

Luke 17:26-36 NASB

26 "And just as it happened in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:

27 they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 "It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building;

29 but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

30 It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.

31 On that day, the one who is on the housetop and whose goods are in the house must not go down to take them out; and likewise the one who is in the field must not turn back.

32 Remember Lot's wife.

33 Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

34 I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left.

35 There will be two women grinding at the same place; one will be taken and the other will be left.

36 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.

1 Timothy 6:8-11 NASB

8 If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.

5. **Having the doctrine of Jesus' return is NOT enough; we must have the expectancy in our heart and in our lifestyle.**

Matthew 24:36-51 NASB

36 **But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.**

37 **For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.**

38 **For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,**

39 **and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.**

40 **Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.**

41 **Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.**

42 **Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.**

43 **But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.**

44 **For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.**

45 **Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time?**

46 **Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.**

47 **Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.**

48 **"But if that evil slave says in his heart, 'My master is not coming for a long time,'**

49 **and begins to beat his fellow slaves and eat and drink with drunkards;**

50 **the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know,**

51 **and will cut him in pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**