

The Ten Virgins

(Matthew 25:1-13)



Parable Reminders

- A Parable is ***not*** a straightforward description of an event, just as it occurred or will occur.
- A Parable is a ***casting or placing side by side*** to a real event or ***to compare likeness or similitude*** to reveal the true meaning by interpretation .



The Parables of Jesus

“Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” -Matthew 25:20-21

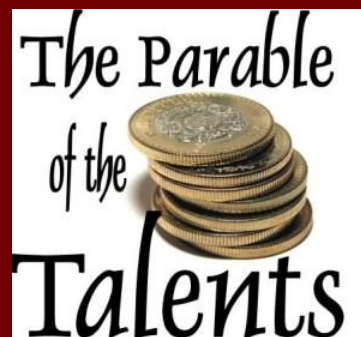
Parable
of the

Talents

Parables of the Talents & Pounds

■ Our Responsibility

- When God entrusts something to us, whether it is a talent, a pound, or life, it is not for us just to keep it safe.
- ✓ The teaching of Jesus in the parables of the talents and pounds reveals that we have received the gift of life from Jesus Christ. This talent or this pound must multiply. It has to produce more talents and pounds.
- ✓ Jesus emphasizes that while He is away, the believer must do the work of the Kingdom of God faithfully and diligently, knowing that at His return, our works will be judged and rewarded or severely punished by Jesus.



Context: Parable of the Ten Virgins

■ **Matthew 24:1-51 / Mark 13 / Luke 21**

- **The topic of readiness is important in Jesus' utilization of parables to teach us!**
- **In the parable of the Fig Tree, Jesus emphasizes that while we may see signs of possible events (Matthew 24:1-31; fulfillment of the beginning of sorrows and the perilous times) pointing to the His return, we must stay in a state of readiness, at all times, "...but of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, not the Son, but the Father alone" (verse 36).**
- **We are encouraged to "...be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming...you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will." (verses 42 and 44) and it is our responsibility to continue productive activity (physical and spiritual activity), until Jesus returns.**

Parable of the Ten Virgins

■ **Matthew 25:1-13**

- **Being a member of a popular denomination doesn't make you ready**
- **Just being good doesn't make you ready.**
- **Just being a member of a local church of God doesn't make you ready.**
- **Unfortunately, Jesus did not give a recorded complete interpretation of this parable. There are often two view points of the parable's details, but they both have the same purpose or main point.**
- **Main point of the parable: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." (verse 13)**

Parable of the Ten Virgins

■ Matthew 25:1-13

- **“Virgins” – Greek “parthenos” / means – Virgin; Marriageable Maiden; one who has not had physical relations; in Biblical usage**
 - **“one who has abstained from all uncleanness and whoredom, idolatry and has been kept their chastity”**
- **Paul speaks about presenting the church as a 'pure virgin' to Christ. “I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.” (II Corinthians 11:2).**
- **The church is the virgin who is being presented to one husband, Christ. In Revelation 14:4, the word 'virgin' is applied to people who have not defiled themselves with women. “These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.”**

Parable of the Ten Virgins

■ Matthew 25:1-13

- “Slumbered” – Greek “nystazo” / means – to nod in sleep; in Biblical usage
 - “to be negligent, careless”
- “Slept” – Greek “katheudo” / means – to fall asleep, drop off to sleep; in Biblical usage
 - “euphemistically, to be dead”
 - “metaphorically, to yield to sloth and sin; to be indifferent to one’s salvation”
- Paul writes in I Thessalonians 4:13-18, “But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are (notice the word) asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope...” .
- This parable could relate to Christians who have died at the time of the Lord's coming. And it is the cry of the archangel that wakes them up. This is not a spiritual waking up. It is a waking up from a physical death. They do not wake up before the coming of the Lord, but at the coming of the Lord, which makes it even more clear that the reference is to a physical resurrection.

Parable of the Ten Virgins

■ **Matthew 25:1-13**

- **“Oil” – Greek “elaion” / means – olive oil; in Biblical usage**
 - **“to fuel lamps”**
 - **“anointing for the healing of the sick and consecrate for service”**
- **The lamp that the virgins are holding is basically a metal bowl on top of which there is a piece of cloth or rope, which serves as a wick. This wick is immersed in the oil. So when you light a lamp oil, you actually light that wick. It begins to burn because of the oil that is soaked up into this rope. With time, the wick gets burned and it begins to become black. When there is too much black on it, the light will become dimmer because the oil does not burn as efficiently. So it is time to trim it, i.e. you cut away that burned out part. That new wick can soak out more oil and therefore can give a brighter light.**
- **When the foolish virgins wanted to trim their wick, they realized that they do not have much oil left. It is not that they are out of oil, but they are beginning to run out of oil at that particular time. Their lamp had been burning while they were sleeping. It was still burning when they woke up. And as they trimmed the wick of their lamp, they looked inside the bowl and saw that they are almost out of oil.**

Parable of the Ten Virgins

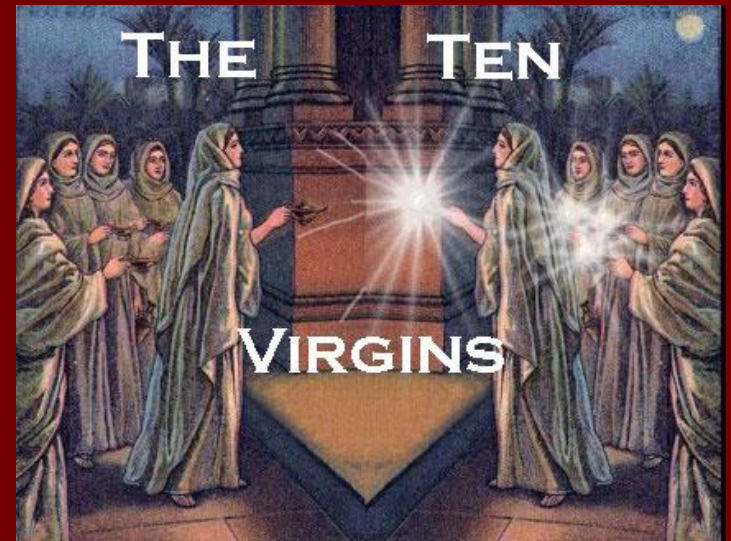
■ **Matthew 25:1-13**

- **“Lamp” – Greek “lampas” / means – a torch; in Biblical usage**
 - **“a lamp, the flame of which is fed with oil”**
- **Jesus instructs in Parable of the Lamp, (Luke 8:16-18), “No one, when he has lit a lamp (candle), covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.”.**
- **In the Bible, the lamp often symbolizes salvation. In Isaiah 62:1, we read about 'the lamp of salvation that is burning.' “For Zion's sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns”. Salvation can be symbolized by a burning lamp.**
- **The lamp is also a symbol of God’s Word, in Psalm 119:105, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”**

One View: Parable of the Ten Virgins

■ Matthew 25:1-13

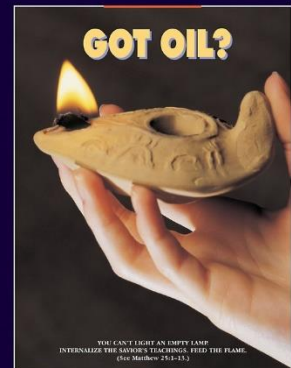
- So the Christian has this lamp of salvation that is burning. And throughout their lifetime, by the grace of God, it will continue to burn until they die. Then, when Jesus Christ comes back, there will be the shout of the archangel which will wake us up. We will be resurrected. At that point, we are going to trim our lamp to make it bright again. And some are going to discover, to their dismay, that their light is going out because they are running out of oil.
- The foolish virgins were satisfied that their lamps were burning at this present time. It was sufficient for this present age, when they were still alive, in this present world.
- The wise virgins made preparation for the coming age. They made good preparation for their eternal future. The foolish virgins did not. They were living for this age. They did not live for the age to come.



Another View: Parable of the Ten Virgins

■ Matthew 25:1-13

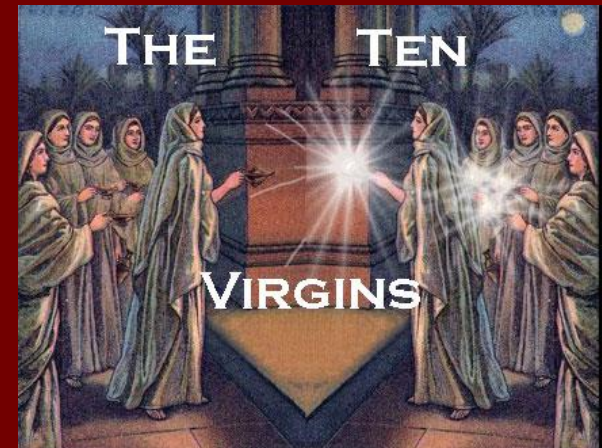
- “Wise” = “Heedful”
- “Foolish” = “Dull”
- Sleep means to take rest by a suspension of voluntary exercise of the powers of the body and mind
- Sleep means to be dormant.
- In Sleep, the sub-conscious mind is inactive.
- Arose means to collect one’s faculties
- Trimmed means to put in proper order.
- Romans 11:5-8
- Spirit of Slumber/ “...and the rest were hardened...God gave them a spirit of slumber, Eyes to see not and Ears to hear not...”



Another View: Parable of the Ten Virgins

■ Matthew 25:1-13

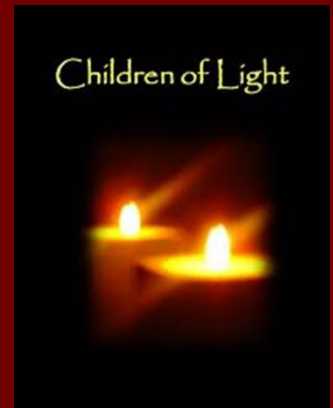
- The two groups of virgins describe two different types of attitudes, in the Church of God. These traits make the two groups' approaches to the wedding celebration predictable, summarized by the contrasting behaviors of sincerity and superficiality. The two have some interesting similarities that cause them to appear the same outwardly.
- There is a strong contrast in the diligence of the two groups. One takes sufficient oil with it, but the other does not. The wise virgins prepare with readiness for future needs, which requires forethought, planning, and dedication. The foolish virgins do not prepare, content to carry only enough to appear wise. They carry out God's instructions with the least amount of effort they think they can get away with (Ecclesiastes 9:10 - Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.).



Parables of the Ten Virgins

■ Our Responsibility

- The main point Christ appears to emphasize in this parable is to be prepared for the future, namely, the coming of Christ. The prophet Amos expresses this powerfully: "Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!" (Amos 4:12). Human beings have little trouble preparing for everything, except meeting God. The last verse of the parable (verse 13) makes its purpose ring in our ears: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."
- ✓ Whatever you may say with your mouth, your actions will show whether you live as one who has eternity in mind, as one who is spiritually wise. (I Thessalonians 5:1-11)



GROUP DISCUSSION

