

PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS
Matthew 25:1-13

by Joseph Edwards II

Mat 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto TEN virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. 2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in flasks with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. 6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. 10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. 11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. 12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

This is another of the “Kingdom of Heaven is like” parables which teach on certain aspects of the pathway to salvation. In this parable, Christ is using the marriage analogy.

Mat 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto TEN virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

The parable begins by showing us ten virgins. The spiritual term “virgins” represents all believers who have been called to be saints/bride.

2Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

When the parable begins, all ten virgins have already received the Early Rain of the Spirit, but not the Latter Rain of the Spirit (the baptism of the Holy Spirit). In this spiritual condition, the virgins are babes who draw milk (**1Cor 3:1-3 & Isa 28:9-12**). They remain carnally minded, spiritually blind and unconverted.

The number of the virgins is said to be TEN. The number “ten” is a “spirit” word (**John 6:63**) which carries a meaning that is different from what man’s wisdom teaches (**1Cor 2:13**). Its spiritual meaning is “completeness”. In this case, the number ten represents that the virgins in the parable represent all believers when they first begin following Christ.

This verse applies:

Mat 9:9 As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” So he arose and followed Him.

When Matthew “arose”, it represented him receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit and becoming a “virgin” who is espoused to Christ.

The lamp which all ten virgins carry represents the Word of God (Christ/Truth) and the light which the lamp gives off represents truth:

Psa 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Prov 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

With the light of God’s Word (more specifically the “law”) illuminating the pathway, all ten virgins are being led to Christ.

Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Mat 25:2 And FIVE of them were Wise, and FIVE were Foolish.

The parable continues by presenting two additional symbols: FIVE Wise Virgins and FIVE Foolish Virgins.

The Five Foolish Virgins represent the babes who have been called to be saints but who were not chosen to actually become saints.

This verse applies:

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Because the foolish virgins are not chosen, Christ will not complete His spiritual work within them before they die. As a result, they will remain unconverted and outside the Kingdom of Heaven during this age.

The Five Wise Virgins represent the babes who have been called and chosen to be saints. For them, Christ will complete His spiritual work within them before they die. As a result, they will be converted and will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mat 18:3 And said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children (no longer babes), you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

For the wise virgins, the number of days they will spend as an unconverted babe will be “shortened”:

This verse applies:

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Because the wise virgins will be harvested early, they are called the First Fruits of Christ's harvest of mankind.

James 1:18 Of His own will (own choosing) He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

Rev 14:4 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.

The parable continues with:

Mat 25:3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: 4 But the wise took oil in flasks with their lamps. 5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

While all ten virgins wait for the Bridegroom to return and take them to the marriage ceremony, they all slumber & sleep and do not keep watch.

The phrase "slumbered and slept" represents that all the virgins have spiritually died.

The phrase "do not keep watch" represents that none of the virgins are ready for the Bridegroom to return. They are not ready because they have all fallen away and have become unfaithful.

The only way a virgin becomes unfaithful is by spiritually fornicating with Satan. Spiritual fornication means to follow the ways of Satan instead of the ways of Christ.

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve spiritually fornicated with Satan when they followed what Satan had told them over what Christ had previously told them. Adam and Eve's fornication with Satan resulted in sin.

After Adam and Eve realized that they were naked (sinful), they again followed the ways of Satan to try and hide their sinfulness from Christ. They did this by making aprons of fig leaves to hide their nakedness (their own works). This way of trying to make oneself acceptable to Christ is called the crooked way. Because the crooked way is the way of Satan, Satan is called the crooked serpent.

When a believer (babe/virgin) turns to the crooked way to make themselves acceptable to Christ, they are committing the one and only sin that leads to death.

Since all ten virgins are shown in verse 3 to be slumbering and sleeping, we can know that they have all committed the sin that leads to death.

This sin is presented in the scripture below:

Prov 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. 27 For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. 28 She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men. 29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? 30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. 31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red (Old Wine), when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright (man's works). 32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

When a believer mixes the Old Wine (man's works/Old Covenant) with the New Wine (faith/New Covenant), they will be bitten by Satan (the crooked serpent). This event will result in the virgin becoming unfaithful and not ready for the Bridegroom to return.

At this time, the wise virgins are spiritually no different from the foolish virgins.

However, verse 4 tells us that the wise virgins carry an extra flask of oil and the foolish virgins do not. This extra oil represents the anointing of the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

Mat 25:6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. 7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said unto the wise, give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 9 But the wise answered, saying, not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Midnight represents the darkest part of a virgin's spiritual blindness. At this time, a virgin will come under the deceptions of Satan via the spirit of anti-Christ. When this happens, they will be made "worse than the first" (Mat 12:43-15) and become a man of sin.

When the call goes out to announce the Bridegroom's return, all ten virgins will hear the call and trim their lamps. This is the same call that was made by John the Baptist to the Nation of Israel and is the same call that is being made below:

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.

The purpose of the call is to tell the virgins to repent from their works and to make the pathway straight for the Lord to "appear" to them. Since the wise virgins have been given the Latter Rain of the Spirit, they will repent of their works and be made faithful again. They will then be ready for the Bridegroom to "appear" and take them back for the Marriage of the Lamb.

Rev 19:7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the Marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9

And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed** are they which are called unto the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Christ teaches this truth again in the scripture below:

Mat 24:42 “**Watch therefore**, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. **43** “**But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.** **44** “**Therefore you also be ready**, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. **45** “**Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?** **46** “**Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.**

Notice verse 46 says that those who are ready are “blessed”. They are blessed because they have been chosen from the foundation of the world to be given the Latter Rain of the Spirit and to be made ready.

Eph 1:4 According as **he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: **5** Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **6** To the praise of the glory of his grace, **wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved** (made ready by the baptism of the Holy Spirit).

Without the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the foolish virgins were not ready for the Bridegroom to return. They simply were not chosen from the foundation of the world to be the bride of Christ and to be included in the harvest of First Fruits.

Without the extra oil, the foolish virgins (called but not chosen) had no ability of their own to make themselves ready.

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **9** **Not of works, lest any man should boast.** **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Mat 25:10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. **11** **Afterward came also the other virgins**, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. **12** But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, **I know you not.** **13** Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Later, the foolish virgins will die still in their unfaithful condition and be resurrected with the unbelievers. At that time, they will all appear before Christ when He sits upon His “White Throne” (**Rev 20:11-15**). At that time, Christ will say to the foolish virgins “I know you not”. They will then be cast into the Lake of Fire for judgment with the unbelievers.

Luke 12:46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

The foolish virgins simply were not blessed to become the bride of Christ by no fault of their own. As a result, they will receive their portion (salvation) with the unbelievers at the end of the final age. They will suffer “loss” and but they will still be saved; “yet so as by fire”:

1Cor 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abides which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

When the “great day” of the final harvest (typed by the Feast of Tabernacles) finally arrives, this call will go out to them:

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

At that time, the remaining harvest of mankind will be gathered into the Kingdom of Heaven.

With this harvest, the Kingdom of Heaven will now contain “all” who died in Adam and God will be “all in all” – no one left out.

1Cor 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the consummation, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.