

THEME: THE PARABLES OF JESUS
TOPIC: THE WISE AND FOOLISH VIRGINS PART II
TEXT: MATTHEW 25:1-13

INTRODUCTION

We have seen that several of Jesus' parables describe the consummation of the "kingdom of heaven" which takes place when Jesus returns.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins holds a powerful lesson on preparation, purpose, and spiritual awareness. Just as a lamp needs oil to burn, every individual must be filled with the right substance to fulfil their destiny. In life, success is not just about having the right tools but having the right fuel.

Not knowing the day or hour of His coming, we must always be ready....this is the basic message of the parable.

THE PARABLE APPLIED

A. CHRISTIANS ARE LIKE THE VIRGINS AWAITING THE BRIDEGROOM...

1. Some Christians are wise

a. They diligently prepare themselves for the Master's coming, heeding the call to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord – **2 Peter 3:18; 1:5-8**

b. Knowing what is to come, they "look" for it and live accordingly – **2 Peter 3:11-14**

c. For them, the coming of the Lord will be a blessing! - **2 Peter 1:10-11**

2. Some Christians are foolish

a. They know the Lord is coming, but they are not prepared

b. They may even be like that evil servant who says "**My master is delaying his coming**", and act accordingly - **Matthew 24:48-49**

c. Yet Jesus has warned what will happen to such evil servants – **Matthew 24:50-51**

▪ Are we like the wise virgins, or the foolish ones?

B. ONE SHOULD NOT TRUST IN PREVIOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

1. Note that the foolish virgins did have "some" oil – **Matthew 25:8**

2. So they had made some preparation, but foolishly trusted in what they had done in the past.

3. Neither should we "rest on our laurels", but have the attitude of Paul – **Phil. 3:12-15**

Q: Are you foolishly depending upon what you have done in the past?

C. PREPAREDNESS IS NOT TRANSFERABLE.

1. The wise virgins could not share their oil with the foolish virgins - **Matthew 25:9**

2. Nor can we impart what salvation we have received to someone else (they must receive it from the Lord Himself) – **Psalms 49:7; Proverbs 9:12**

3. Do not think that we can be "saved by association"

a. It did not work for the Jews – **Jeremiah 7:4-7**

b. Neither will it work for us; each of us must have our own name in the Book of Life – **Revelation 20:12-15**

▪ Are you foolishly trusting in your relationship with someone else for your salvation (a parent, a spouse, a church, etc.)?

▪

D. THOSE UNPREPARED DO NOT RECEIVE A SECOND CHANCE.

1. Despite their pleas, the foolish virgins were not permitted to the wedding - **Matthew 25:10-12**
2. When the Lord comes again, the time for salvation is gone!

[Each of these points is related to the main message of the parable: the need to be prepared at all times for the coming of Christ. In view of this great need, here are some thoughts on...]

E. MAINTAINING A STATE OF PREPAREDNESS.

1. Be careful not to let this world to pre-occupy you - **Luke 21: 34-35**
 - a. Through its worldly lusts
 - b. Through its worldly concerns
2. Be steadfast in prayer – **Luke 21:36**
 - a. For in prayer we naturally maintain an attitude of watchfulness (which is a mark of preparation) – **Ephesians 6:18**
 - b. For in prayer we can assure that we will be counted worthy as we confess our sins – **1 John 1:9**
3. Be diligent to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ – **2 Peter 3:18**
 - a. As defined in **2 Peter 1:5-8**
 - b. The blessings of which are described in **2 Peter 1:10-11**

CONCLUSION

This parable teaches us that a great day is coming, a day in which those in the kingdom today will find themselves in two different groups.

- a. Those who prepared themselves and faithfully watched for His coming
- b. Those who were not prepared, to whom they will hear the Lord say: **"Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you."**

To be ready for Christ's return, a person must have faith in Christ. We must be born again. To use a metaphor from Jesus' parable, we must have the oil. The Holy Spirit must indwell us, producing the light of life. Without the Holy Spirit, we are unprepared. It won't matter how vigorously we knock or how loudly we proclaim, "Lord, Lord!" Only those who, through the Spirit, are prepared for the coming of the Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven.

"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." (Matthew 25:13)